FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

3 JANUARY 1984

Syria

U.S. Pilot Released — The U.S. pilot shot down over Lebanon and captured by Syrian forces in November was handed over to Jesse Jackson during a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam early on 3 January, Damascus radio announced. A statement by an official source broadcast by the radio said that Lieutenant Robert Goodman was released in response to Jackson's "humanitarian appeal" to President Hafiz al-Asad and as a Syrian "contribution" toward creating circumstances "conducive to withdrawing the U.S. forces from Lebanon." The statement urged the U.S. Government to end its involvement in Lebanon and reaffirmed that the Syrian Armed Forces will "firmly confront" any future "aggressive and provocative acts."

Damascus radio had announced Jackson's arrival in Syria on 30 December, followed by his meeting the next day with Khaddam, with whom he discussed the pilot's release. On 31 December Damascus television broadcast recorded video coverage of Jackson's meeting with the pilot, with SANA also reporting the 31 December meeting. Damascus radio also said that Jackson met with Religious Trusts Minister Muhammad al-Khatib and a group of Islamic and Christian clergymen. On 1 January the radio reported a press conference held by Jackson, citing him as declaring that the U.S. Marines in Lebanon have "lost their quality as a neutral force and their presence is no longer required" and calling for their withdrawal and replacement by UN or neutral forces. On 2 January Jackson met with Al-Asad to discuss the situation in the region, U.S.-Syrian relations, U.S. policy in Lebanon and the Middle East, and the pilot's release, according to the radio.

Lebanon

French, Italian Contingents — France will reduce its contingent in the Multinational Force by 482 men near the end of January, AFP and Paris radio announced citing the French Defense and External Relations ministries. Defense Minister Charles Hernu personally informed President Amin al-Jumayyil of the planned reduction, which will occur when the men are reassigned from the Multinational Force to the French contingent in UNIFIL, AFP added.

Meanwhile, during a visit to Beirut, Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini informed Al-Jumayyil of his government's intention to reorganize the Italian contingent by replacing the approximately 2,000 volunteers currently in Beirut with a fully equipped 1,000-man regular Army unit, emphasizing that this will not signify a minimization of Italy's commitment, Beirut radio divulged. During his visit Spadolini reaffirmed that the Italian contingent will remain in Lebanon "as long as it is allowed to fulfill its mission," ANSA reported.

Israeli Air Raid — Israeli fighters attacked two buildings in Bhamdun that reportedly housed a Palestinian command center, Beirut radio and ITIM announced. The 3 January raids scored "direct hits" on the buildings, which housed Palestinian dissidents loyal to Sa'id Musa Muragha, ITIM added.

Relations With Israel — Israel will leave Lebanon as soon as it "ensures the appropriate security arrangements" have been reached, Israeli security sources told Jerusalem radio, which asserted that this means Israel will not make withdrawal dependent on corresponding Syrian withdrawal.

Similarly, citing an interview with Congressman Barney Frank on his meeting with the prime minister, the radio stated that Shamir told the U.S. delegation that Israel "no longer insists on a simultaneous withdrawal of Syrian forces." A Lebanese diplomatic source told the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon that, if true, this new Israeli stance is "a positive deviation from the 17 May agreement" that would be easier to implement than the agreement. Lebanese diplomatic sources cited by Beirut radio reported that Lebanon has received no information about Israeli withdrawals from the south and has asked the United States to assure that any future withdrawals are coordinated with the Lebanese Army. The sources maintained that Israel "agrees to freeze" the 17 May agreement "at present."

Security Situation — A driver for the French Consulate in Beirut, a French citizen, was shot by an unidentified assailant outside the consul's residence early on 3 January, according to French Embassy sources cited by Beirut radio. The driver was taken to the hospital, where he underwent surgery, the radio added. Elsewhere in Beirut, on 30 December a French patrol was fired upon but escaped without casualties, the radio stated. On 31 December the Hungarian ambassador's car was stopped in Beirut by armed men who ordered the ambassador and his driver out of the car and then stole the vehicle, according to the radio. Meanwhile, the city's eastern suburb and Lebanese Army positions in the southern suburb again came under shellfire over the weekend, the radio announced.

In Tripoli clashes between the Islamic Unification Movement and the "Arab Knights movement" took place on 30 December, Beirut radio stated. The Voice of Lebanon radio reported an explosion on 1 January in the city's French Cultural Center.

The IDF closed the routes over the Al-Awwali River from 30 December to 2 January in response to "sitdown strikes" called by Sunni and Shi'ite religious leaders in the south, according to Jerusalem radio. The "sit-ins" were held in solidarity with the "popular uprising in the south" and in protest against the Israeli occupation and "repressive actions," Beirut radio reported.

Sa'd Haddad — Major Sa'd Haddad, commander of the pro-Israeli Lebanese forces in southern Lebanon, was admitted to an Israeli hospital on 1 January in "very poor condition," *THE JERUSALEM POST* reported. The official reason for his admission was "fatigue and exhaustion," and he was reported to be in "stable" condition, the paper added.

PLO Affairs

'Arafat in Tunis — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafatarrived in Tunis from the YAR on 30 December, Tunis radio announced. In a departure statement reported by San'a' Voice of Palestine radio, 'Arafat affirmed that he will chair meetings of the Fatah Central Committee and the PLO Executive Committee, and also continue his meeting with Palestinian military officials. Shortly after his arrival, according to SPA, 'Arafat met with Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali and then with several Fatah Central Committee members.

The Fatah Central Committee began meetings on 31 December chaired by 'Arafat, KUNA reported. The meetings continued 1 and 2 January, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio noted.

Meanwhile, Palestinian sources cited by the Amman paper *AR-RA'Y* reported that representatives of the PFLP, the DFLP, the Palestine Liberation Front, and the Palestine Communist Party would go to Tunis for consultations with the Fatah Central Committee on the repercussions of 'Arafat's visit to Egypt. Regarding the proceedings of the Central Committee session, a ranking Palestinian told KUNA that its talks were aimed at "self-reconstruction of the movement" that would affect everybody, "from top to bottom."

Meanwhile, another Palestinian source told the agency that the PLO Executive Committee had sent messages to five of its members who are currently in Damascus inviting them to attend its meeting, which is scheduled to begin in Tunis immediately following the Fatah Central Committee meeting. Earlier, Fatah dissident spokesman Mahmud al-Labadi had stated that the five PLO Executive Committee members in Damascus denied any knowledge of a forthcoming meeting in Tunis, Damascus radio reported.

The radio also cited PLO Executive Committee Secretary Muhammad Khalifah, who maintained that the boycott of any Executive Committee meetings called by 'Arafat "is still valid" because any such meeting constitutes "a deviation that will lead to the liquidation of the Palestine question."

'Arafat Support, Opposition — In a statement to MENA, PNC member Sa'id Kamal said that at the Arab summit meeting in Riyadh 'Arafat would present his visit to Egypt as having been made in his capacity as a member of the committee formed by the Fes summit to discuss the restoration of relations with Egypt, adding that "all justifications and excuses that led to the estrangement between Egypt and the Arab states have now been invalidated" by Egyptian and Israeli actions.

Meanwhile, PNC Chairman Khalid al-Fahum called for a meeting of PNC members in Damascus to discuss the results of the visit, according to JANA. The meeting, which was held on 2 January, considered 'Arafat's visit to Cairo a "deviation from the PLO's national legitimacy" that "deprives 'Arafat of his legitimacy in the PLO," Damascus radio reported. KUNA reported that the PFLP has launched intensive efforts within the PNC to depose 'Arafat because of the visit, adding that PFLP envoys have gone to a number of Arab states in pursuit of this end.

In another development, the PFLP-General Command "provisional leadership committee" declared support for "Palestinian legitimacy" under 'Arafat's leadership and announced "measures" adopted by the PFLP-GC revolutionary court against seven Palestinian leaders, including PFLP-GC leader Ahmad Jibril. The statement, reported by Algiers Voice of Palestine radio, promised that punishment for these "agents and traitors" is "forthcoming and close."

Israel

Security Situation — On 2 January the Knesset passed its readings of the law extending the validity of emergency regulations in the "occupied territories," Jerusalem television announced. The law also provides for the extension of Israeli law to permanent Jewish residents of the territories, though the Arabs continue to be subject to the military government's orders, the television added. Meanwhile, the IDF reinforced roadblocks along the main roads in "Judaea and Samaria" following telephoned threats of future terrorist action and bombings in those areas, according to ITIM. Earlier, on 30 December, an explosive charge was discovered and defused on a bus in Jerusalem, IDF Radio reported, while on 31 December Jerusalem radio reported that a bomb exploded in the former mayor of Gaza's yard.

International Developments — The Cabinet expressed "regret" at Italian President Alessandro Pertini's remarks alleging Israeli responsibility for the Sabra and Shatila massacres, announcing that the president's speech "contained incorrect details," the paper *HA'ARETZ* stated. In another development Jerusalem radio reported that during the Egyptian deputy foreign minister's visit Foreign Ministry Secretary General David Kimche "demanded" that the Egyptian Government make it possible to reconvene "all joint committees established after the signing of the peace accords," prompting the Egyptian delegation to promise "urgent and sympathetic handling" of the demands.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio announced that on 2 January Iraqi naval and air forces attacked an "enemy naval convoy" entering Bandar-e Khomeyni, destroying five "naval targets." Iraqi planes subsequently downed one Iranian Chinook helicopter engaged in a rescue attempt at the site of the sinkings. The communique admitted the loss of two Iraqi fighters. An Iranian communique broadcast by Tehran radio on 2 January did not report any naval engagements but did state that two Iraqi planes, a Sukhoy-22 and a MIG-23, were downed in dogfights in the southern sector.

19In other developments, the Iranian Army Joint Staff Command reported that on 1 January Iranian planes "totally destroyed" an Iraqi missile launching platform southwest of Al-Faw port, which it claimed the Iraqis had used for launching surface-to-surface missiles at targets in the Gulf, according to IRNA. Meanwhile, an earlier Iraqi communique broadcast by Baghdad radio announced that Iraqi fighters downed two Iranian F-5 fighters southeast of Ahvaz when they attempted to cross the border east of Basra on 30 December.

Iran

Five Iranian students expelled from France arrived in Tehran on 31 December, ending "a 5-day ordeal and 'torture' by French police in Rheims," IRNA reported. An earlier report by the agency stated that the students and their lawyers had protested the expulsion and resisted boarding the plane, which prompted French police to attack and injure one student and place two others in handcuffs.

In another development, Education Minister Mohammad 'Ali Najafi stated that the U.S. decision to terminate its membership in UNESCO "must be interpreted" as "in the best interests of the organization and its objectives," according to IRNA.

Saharan Affairs

The Saharan People's Liberation Army launched an offensive against Moroccan troops approximately 70 km east of Bu Craa, forcing the Moroccans to withdraw, according to a Saharan Ministry of Information statement reported by APS. The battles, which lasted 5 hours, resulted in 154 Moroccans killed or wounded and caused the Moroccan forces to bring "significant reinforcements" into the region, the statement added.

Tunisia

"Riots and demonstrations" broke out on 29 December in Tunisian towns but were brought under control by government forces, an Interior Ministry statement broadcast by Tunis radio announced. According to the statement, four were killed in the riots, which Paris radio reported broke out as the result of a 70-percent increase in the cost of bread which came into effect on 1 January.

Egypt-Sudan Radio

A new station calling itself "the Nile Valley Radio" began transmission from Cairo and Khartoum on 1 January. The station was inaugurated by Sudanese Minister of National Guidance and Information Muhammad Khujali Salihin and his Egyptian counterpart Safwat Ash-Sharif in implementation of a decision by the joint Sudan-Egypt Higher Council for Information, Cairo radio announced.

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'Arafat Chairs Palestinian Leadership Meetings

'Arafat Departs YAR for Tunis

GF301638 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the forces of the Palestinian revolution, met today with his brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president and commander in chief of the armed forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress. They discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian question on both the Arab and international levels and the stage that follows the departure from Tripoli.

After the meeting Brother 'Abu 'Ammar left for San'a' International Airport. He then left for Tunis.

In a predeparture statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY Abu 'Ammar said: As I leave the YAR for Tunis to attend the meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and Fatah Central Committee and to resume the military meetings, I am pleased to express my thanks for the welcome and true fraternal love we found here in the northern part of Yemen, which were manifested in the firm principled stand taken by my brother, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, with whom I met for the fourth time today prior to my departure. In our meeting we discussed various local, Arab, and international issues.

Abu 'Ammar said that he expressed his thanks on behalf of the fighters and on behalf of the PLO Executive Committee for all the assitance and support rendered by the Yemeni people and president to their brothers the Palestinian fighters and to the Palestinian people and revolution.

In conclusion Abu 'Ammar said: At these moments I can only extend my feelings of love, gratitude, and pride to the noble Arab Yemeni people and say to them: We shall be together, God willing, and pray in the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Arrival Remarks in Tunis

NC302012 Paris AFP in English 1953 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Tunis, Dec 30 (AFP) — Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman, arrived here today for a special meeting of the Central Committee of his PLO Fatah grouping, and immediately condemned Arab states for their alleged complicity in the "American-Israeli plot" against the Palestinian revolution. "The American-Israeli plot, in which certain Arab parties are unfortunately implicated, does not only aim to harm the Palestinain revolution and people, but also to divide our Arab nation in order to balkanize the region and dominate it," the PLO leader told reporters at the airport.

Mr 'Arafat refused to name the "Arab parties" but said that the Palestinian revolution had always "emerged stronger from its trials" and that this would again happen in the wake of the fighting in north Lebanon and his evacuation along with 4,000 Palestinian combatants 10 days ago.

The PLO chief had been greeted at the airport by Fatah faithfuls and by Wassila Bourguiba, the wife of Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba, as he returned to PLO headquarters here, where according to an Arab diplomat "the serious things will begin."

According to reliable sources, Mr 'Arafat was to go straight into a meeting of the 11-member Fatah Central Committee during which he would explain why he decided to meet on December 22 with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak without consulting the Fatah leadership. The PLO leader was also to attend a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee, at a time to be announced but which was expected to be held here after the Fatah session.

Mr 'Arafat said that during the meetings he would discuss "how we can imagine this difficult march together not only for the Palestinian revolution but also for the Arab nation."

Chairs Tunis Meeting

LD302222 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2145 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Tunis, 30 Dec (SPA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat tonight chaired a meeting in Tunis that included some members of the Palestinian leadership. Arrangements for meetings of the Fatah Central Committee to be held later were discussed, as well as the broad outlines to be distributed by the Fatah movement on the 19th anniversary of its inception, which falls the day after tomorrow, Sunday 1 January. Views regarding the next stage of Palestinian action were exchanged at the meeting. Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad; Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad; Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu al-Lutf; Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin; Rafiq an-Natshah, Hani al-Hasan, Salim Az-Za'nun and 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad attended the meeting.

Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali met with Yasir 'Arafat tonight. They reviewed the Arab situation, especially the developments in the Palestinian arena.

Meetings Continue

JN011718 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] In the presence of brother leader Abu 'Ammar, the Fatah Central Committee continued its meetings which began in Tunis yesterday. The Fatah Central Committee is discussing the lastest developments of the Palestinian cause on all levels in light of the results of the battle of steadfastness and challenge, the battle to defend the Palestinian independent national decisionmaking, which our revolution fought in Tripoli under the leadership of brother leader Abu 'Ammar. The Fatah Central Committee is also discussing other affairs in the Palestinian arena.

UAE Paper on Deliberations

GF030924 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0820 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Ash-Shariqah, 3 Jan (WAKH) — The UAE newspaper *AL-KHALIJ today reported in a dispatch from Tunis that PLO*

Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is facing an extremely difficult situation within the Fatah movement and that this situation may snowball into settling his organizational status within the movement, through its legitimate institutions. The paper continued saying that the Fatah Revolutionary Council will meet in a few days to prepare for the general conference of the Fatah movement.

Quoting well-informed Palestinian sources,the paper said that 'Arafat stood alone in the meetings of the Fatah Central Committee, which convened in the past 2 days, and that all the Central Committee members revealed their views during these meetings. They all stressed their rejection of the style adopted by 'Arafat, not only with regard to his visit to Cairo and his meeting within President Husni Mubarak, but on the movement and the organizational levels as well.

A member of the Fatah movement told the paper that the participation of the all Central Committee members put 'Arafat in the position of facing the 10 members who turned down all the pretexts he presented to justify his visit to Cairo.

The paper went on to say that the meetings of the Central Committee resulted in the formation of three committees to draft a statement that will be issued on Tuesday on the results of its meetings. This committee includes Faruq Qaddumi, Khalid al-Hasan, and Mahmud 'Abbas. The statement was drafted yesterday and discussed by the members of the Central Committee.

The paper pointed out that the draft of the statement includes a comprehensive political assesment of the current developments, dealing with the events in north Lebanon, the Tripoli siege, and the situation in the occupied territories. The draft of the political statement ascertains Fatah's commitment to the platforms reached in the Fatah conferences and to the political platform reached in the 13th session of the Palestine National Council. The statement also confirms Fatah's keenness to attain Palestinian national unity among the PLO factions and to be committed to rejecting all the political peaceful settlements, including the Reagan initiative and the Camp David accords. According to the paper, the statement rebukes Yasir 'Arafat for visiting Cairo and for not committing himself to the principle of group leadership. It also stresses that the Fatah movement is not committed to any consequences that could emanate from the talks that took place between Yasir 'Arafat and Husni Mubarak.

A senior Palestinian official told the paper that if 'Arafat refuses to approve the draft statement, he has only one option: to submit his resignation. He added that there is full readiness by the Central Committee members to accept this resignation should it be presented.

The paper pointed out that 'Arafat justified his visit to Cairo by saying that the Arab countries did not issue an official rejection of his talks with President Husni Mubarak and this was restricted to information media only.

Al-Hasan on Results

LD030812 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] A statement is expected to be issued in Tunisia today on the results of the Fatah Central Committee meetings. The committee's meeting last night will probably be its last in the present round.

The Fatah Central Committee meetings follows the Palestinian evacuation from northern Lebanon and the developments in the Palestine question that followed.

Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee who has taken part in the meetings, has stated that agreement was reached on the subjects discussed and that the deliberations were conducted in favorable conditions.

In a statement to the Tunisian news agency TAP, Khalid al-Hasan pointed out that a PLO Executive Committee meeting is to be summoned to convene in Tunis shortly.

Fatah Spokesman Denies Report

JN012155 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus — Mahmud al-Labadi, official spokesman for the Fatah revolutionary uprising, has stated the following: Some news media reported that the PLO Executive Committee will soon hold a meeting in Tunis. Therefore, the Palestinian news agency, WAFA, contacted the PLO Executive Committee members in Damascus. These are brothers 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, Ahmad al-Yamani, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, Talal Naji, and Muhammad Khalifah.

Al-Labadi said: The brothers denied having knowledge of this and said that what has been broadcast and published about the meeting is baseless. They added that this report is groundless and is only aimed at confusing the Palestinian arena and absorbing the reactions to'Arafat's visit to Cairo.

In another development, the Al-'Asifah forces general command condemned 'Arafat's treasonous visit to Cairo and his joining of Camp David and Reagan's plan.

In a statement issued today on the 19th anniversary marking the inception of the Palestinian revolution, the general command stressed that 'Arafat disdained the PLO and wanted to replace it by a midget alternative in the form of a government-in-exile.

The statements adds that the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied homeland condemn 'Arafat's steps and call for isolating and toppling him and for protecting the Palestinian revolution from this plot. The statement then reviews the savage massacres that King Husayn perpetrated against the Palestinian revolution in Amman, 'Ajlun, and other Jordanian cities. It praises the Palestinian-Lebanese-Syrian steadfastness in the face

of the imperialist U.S. and Zionist aggression against Lebanon. It emphasizes that it is possible to inflict defeat on the invaders no matter how much equipment they possess and how great their number is.

The statement adds: The Beirut battle has exposed the true nature of the U.S.-Zionist alliance and removed the last veil from the face of the Palestinian right wing, which is colluding with imperialism to liquidate the Palestinian cause. It stresses that the revolutionary movement has toppled the plot and managed to protect the revolution and purge it from the symbols of treason and deviation, and managed to complete the revolutionary structure and bolster Palestinian national unity.

The statement calls for the need to ally with Syria, the Lebanese National Salvation Front, the Arab progressive forces, the USSR, the Socialist countries, and the world progressive forces. Finally, it calls for bolstering the Palestinian Arab people's steadfastness against the schemes of Zionism and 'Arafat and for confronting the new Camp David. It also calls for bolstering armed struggle inside the occupied homeland and in Lebanon and for toppling the plot.

PFLP Sends Envoys in Attempt to Depose 'Arafat

LD311308 Kuwait KUNA in English 1153 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Aden, Dec 31 (KUNA) — The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) is launching intensive efforts among members of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) to depose PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat over his latest unilateral decision of meeting with the Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, it was reported Saturday.

Four PFLP envoys have left Friday to a number of Arab countries to explain the PFLP's strong opposition to the controversial 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting on Dec 22, and to urge members of the Palestinian National Council to overthrow 'Arafat, PFLP sources said.

On the other hand, Yemeni president 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has received Friday a message from the PFLP Secretary General Dr. George Habash on the latest Palestinian political developments. The message was conveyed by the PFLP Assistant General Secretary Abu 'Ali Mustafa who arrived here Friday on a visit to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Immediatly after the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting several hardline PLO groups in addition to a number of Fatah group officials had called for the ouster of 'Arafat accusing him of acting (?unilaterally) and ignoring the Palestinian National Council earlier resolutions and stand on the Palestinian question.

On arriving Tunis last night, 'Arafat said his talks with Mubarak were in line with the resolutions of the PNC.

He told KUNA, he was implementing the PNC resolutions when he met with Mubarak. The outcry over the visit will vanish in a few days when they know the meeting with the Egyptian president was an implementation of the PNC resolutions, 'Arafat said.

The PLO leader is headed for a crucial meeting today with Fatah Central Committee over the visit. Later he will also meet with PLO Executive Committee on the same controversy.

Habash on 'Arafat Expulsion

LD311509 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1245 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Beirut, 31 Dec (KUNA) — PFLP Secretary General George Habash has declared that the establishment of a Palestine government-in-exile is tantamount to a liquidation of the PLO, an end to the phase of armed struggle and total involvement in a political settlement process.

Habash made this comment in an interview with the Lebanese weekly magazine *AL-USBU' AL-'ARABI*, which was published here today. He added that the "the raising of the question of a Palestine government-in-exile was a capitulationist initiative which the revolution has faced at every juncture. It aims to liquidate the PLO and to bypass the obstacle of Palestinian representation."

"The revival of this suspect plan," he said, "by the deviationists at this particular time reflects their future intentions. But they will not succeed."

Habash launched a fierce attack against 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and his meeting with President Husni Mubarak. He said that "since his arrival in Egypt's Camp David, 'Arafat has become no longer acceptable as head of the PLO and has lost all qualification to be so." He added that it was essential for the revolutionary Palestinian institutions to meet in order to consider 'Arafat's removal and to discuss the democratic solution and the current phase which the revolution is facing."

Dr Habash referred to those who supported 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and said that these "voices were well known for their suspect connections with the Jordanian and Egyptian regimes and their approval of the Camp David accords."

He pointed out that "'Arafat has deviated from the resolutions of the Palestine National Council and the legitimate bodies of the PLO. His expulsion, therefore, cannot be cause for any controversy."

"We were about to begin a wide-scale campaign to implement the program of unity and reform which we had put forward in case 'Arafat left Tripoli and went to San'a', but refrained from committing the crime of a visit to Cairo. His visit and his meeting with the Camp David regime therefore, have done away with all this."

Habash pointed out that the Palestine leadership had put forward an initiative for a cease-fire and a solution to the Tripoli problem. However, the fighting continued and the initiative consequently failed.

Al-Hasan Says 'Arafat Going to Saudi Arabia

GF020646 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Khalid al-Hasan, PLO Executive Committee member and political adviser to the committee's chairman, has expressed the PLO's thanks and gratitude to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz for the efforts he undertook to prevent Palestinian bloodshed and to ensure the safe departure of the Palestinian fighters from Tripoli.

In a statement to the newspaper *'UKAZ* published today, he accentuated that the efforts exerted by his Majesty King Fahd are not surprising, because his record is full of glorious acts of support and backing for the Palestinian issue and the struggle launched by the Palestinian people against the Zionist enemy. He pointed out that simplest example is what his majesty the king did when he manipulated all the Kingdom's political and financial resources and capabilities in the direction of backing the fighters during the siege of Beirut. Khalid al-Hasan continued by saying that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will leave for Saudi Arabia as soon as possible in order to personally express his thanks and gratitude to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Referring to the fourth Islamic conference, which will be held in the Moroccan city of Casablanca on 16 January, the Palestinian official expressed his hope that this summit will adopt positive and constructive resolutions. He also noted that the PLO delegation to the conference will present complementary proposals to the Islamic summit conference. He did not elaborate on these proposals but stated that these proposals will be in accordance with announced PLO positions.

DFLP Statement Rejects 'Alternate' PLO Command

JN302155 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] In a statement it issued today, the DFLP rejected the so-called alternate command in Syria. It also rejected the treasonous dissidents' claims and campaigns against Palestinian legitimacy, as well as dealing with any alternate PLO framework. The following is a recorded dispatch on this subject by our radio correspondent:

[Begin recording] The DFLP has rejected both the so-called alternate Palestinian command in Syria and dealing with any alternate PLO framework. It also rejected the dissidents' claims and campaigns against Palestinian legitimacy. To this effect, the DFLP issued a statement to its various institutions and members denying any relationship with the statements and moves being made by the dissidents and some organizations that attended a recent meeting in Damascus held following Brother Abu 'Ammar's visit to Cairo. These statements hinted at the presence of the so-called Palestinian command in Damascus. The DFLP statement says that the DFLP representative attended this meeting, which the PNC speaker convened, on the basis of the following:

First, this meeting was for the PNC members and for representatives of a number of Palestinian forces and figures who are residing in Damascus because of the Palestinian revolution's current difficult circumstances. Second, this meeting was not obligatory and did not have the power to make decisions. In addition, it was an undeclared meeting. Third, the objective of this meeting was to hold consultations on how to solve the crisis in the Palestinian arena in a manner that preserves the PLO's national unity and safeguards its nationalist trend. Fourth, the DFLP does not recognize the framework called the Palestinian command, since it is outside the framework of the PLO's legitimate institutions. The statement added that during the meeting, the DFLP's representative affirmed the Front's stand, which calls for action to safeguard the PLO's unity. They denounced the divisivetactics for which certain parties in the Palestinian arena are calling. The statement affirmed that the statement published by the [name indistinct] newspaper, which is the dissidents' organ, is a model of this tactic that seeks to form a Palestinian command, a command that is rejected by and isolated from the Palestinian people's will and their independent national decisionmaking.

In another development, a DFLP official information source stated: Some news agencies published reports on a meeting the Palestinian command held in Damascus to discuss recent developments. The DFLP affirms that it refuses to consider such meetings that are held to discuss certain topics as a firm framework or a Palestinian command, because such consideration serves the divisive trend in the Palestinian arena and hampers all efforts to form the broadest Palestinian force and preserve national unity. The source added: The DFLP affirms that it will not deal with such a framework, and will firmly reject it as an alternate Palestinian command.

Furthermore, some news agencies carried reports saying that these meetings, which called themselves Palestinian command meetings, decided to reject any invitation to the Palestine Military Council. Stemming from the DFLP's concern about convening the Military Council, as the DFLP's official information source has said, the DFLP affirms that there is no relationship between its stand and any alleged decision that has been adopted by an enlarged meeting of an alternate command. The DFLP concludes by affirming that the resistance groups did not meet to discuss this topic.

In another development, dissident elements in Damascus and certain parties who are Palestinians in name alone are pursuing their feversih campaigns against Palestinian legitimacy and its symbol, Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar. Observers note that the campaigns of the dissidents, who are linked with the Syrian intelligence organs, and those of other elements in the Palestinian arena that have joined the Syrian regime's organizations against Abu 'Ammar coincide with the Syrian media campaigns. These campaigns are famous for their fallacies, and they long ago lost their credibility in Arab and Palestinian circles both inside and outside Syria. The dissident gangs and their allies the Syrian intelligence organs tried to hint at the formation of a new Palestinian command in Damascus, as did Nimr Salih in a statement he made 2 days ago. This comes within their well-known and Syrian-backed invitation to form a new PLO that receives its instructions from Syrian intelligence. However, this invitation, which was denounced by the Palestinian and Arab masses, will not succeed. [end recording]

Fatah Commander on Fatah Presence in Tripoli

GF301549 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 29 Dec 83 p 21

[Najih Khalil dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt] A Fatah military commander called Abu al-Fida, in statement to *AS-SIYASAH* yesterday, revealed that Fatah has not totally withdrawn from Tripoli but is still maintaining offices, arms depots, and military cadres in the city so that it can openly resume its activities any time the Palestinian command chooses. Abu al-Fida added: The political situation existing in Tripoli has not been affected by 'Arafat's departure. The possibility that the Islamic Unification Movement will be defeated by pro-Syrian forces is remote in the forseable future.

Baghdad Voice of PLO Reports Hebron Bombing

JN301810 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] In the occupied homeland, the Zionist occupation authorities are pursuing their criminal terrorist and coercive operations against our steadfast Palestinian people in an attempt to eliminate Palestinian struggle activities against occupation. A group of Zionist settlers and other groups of occupation forces perpetrated a new treacherous aggression today against Islamic holy shrines in the occupied West Bank. These groups exploded two bombs in a mosque in occupied Hebron, resulting in the injury of a worshipper. High tension is prevailing in Hebron following this Zionist criminal operation, and the Palestinian masses are at the boiling point. Reports from the occupied homeland said that Hebron is expected to witness big demonstrations denouncing the ugly crime and condemning the occupation.

Resistance Fighters Attack Lebanon, Israel Targets

An-Nabatiyah Attack

JN301753 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men pursued their attacks against the Israeli invasion forces in southern Lebanon, despite the barbaric measures that these forces are practicing and the arrangements they are making to besiege southern Lebanon by closing the entry points connecting it with northern Lebanon. A Zionist military source said that the resistance men used hand grenades and machine guns to attack on Israeli military convoy of three military vehicles near An-Nabatiyah. The source claimed that the incident did not cause any casualties. He said that the occupation forces immediately imposed a curfew on the area and carried out a search for the resistance men, who withdrew safely to their bases.

Ar-Rashidiyah Attack

JN311711 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] A group of the Palestinian and Lebanese Nationalist Forces has attacked a military position of the Zionist invasion forces near Ar-Rashidiyah town. The fighters used hand grenades and machine guns in their attack, which left several Zionist soldiers killed or wounded. Admitting the operation, a spokesman for the enemy's forces said that one soldier was wounded when the position was attacked by the resistance fighters. He added that his forces cordoned off the area and detained a number of citizens for interrogation. The fighters withdrew safely to base.

Reports from southern Lebanon said that the Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance forces set up an ambush for a Zionist military vehicle in Sidon, killing or wounding several of the patrol's personnel.

An-Nabatiyah 1 Jan Attack

JN011715 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] A group of the Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance forces today detonated remote-controlled charges under a Zionist military vehicle in An-Nabatiyah, in southern Lebanon. The Zionist military vehicle was destroyed and all its passengers were killed or wounded.

Admitting the operation, a Zionist spokesman refrained from reporting his forces' losses. He added that Zionist forces mopped up the area immediately after the explosion. It is recalled that the invading Zionist forces have been besieging the southern Lebanese areas for 3 days for security reasons.

Attack in Gaza Strip

JN011720 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] A group of our forces operating inside the occupied homeland has planted explosive charges in an area adjacent to An-Nusayrat camp, in the occupied Gaza Strip. The charges were set up for a Zionist military vehicle. The explosion of the charges destroyed the vehicle completely, killing or wounding all its passengers.

Admitting the operation, a Zionist spokesman claimed as usual that no one was hurt in this incident. He said that his forces cordoned off the area and detained several citizens for interrogation.

W. Bank Bomb Attacks

JN021810 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland continue to further escalate their vigilant operations against the Zionist occupation forces, particularly on the 19th anniversary of Fatah and the Palestinian revolution.

One of our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland hurled an incendiary bomb on a Zionist military patrol in the Al-Qasabah quarter of the occupied city of Nabulus. The explosion seriously wounded several Zionist soldiers. Admitting

the operation, a Zionist spokesman said his forces cordoned off the Al-Qasabah quarter and searched for the fighter who hurled the bomb, but he managed to withdraw safely. The Zionist forces arrested a number of the Palestinian citizens for their suspected connection with the operation.

Al-'Asifah Operations in Israel

JN311855 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1745 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 31 Dec (SANA) — In a statement issued here today, the Al-'Asifah Forces' military spokesman announced that the group of the martyr Al-Haj Hasan operating in the occupied land attacked an enemy patrol in Nabulus yesterday, Friday, with handgrenades, killing and wounding all of the Zionist patrol memebrs. WAFA, quoting the military spokesman, said that the group of the martyr Mahmud al-'Amlah operating in the occupied land attacked the enemy settlers in Hebron on 26 December with hand grenades, killing and wounding several Zionists.

The spokesman added that the group of the martyr Ra'fat al-Barghuthi attacked a Zionist enemy patrol in the Jalazon camp near Ramallah on 24 December with incendiary bombs, killing and wounding all of the patrol's personnel. He also said the the group of the martyr Khalil Jabr planted an explosive charge in one of the buses that came from Rahobot settlement to Jerusalem on 20 December. The explosive charge went off the moment the bus arrived in the central bus station in occupied Jerusalem, destroying the bus and killing and wounding all the passengers. The spokesman also said that another group fired their heavy missiles at Samakh area on 20 December. The enemy admitted this operation and claimed as usual that there were no losses. The enemy also admitted all the previous operations. The spokesman said that all the combat groups returned safely to base.

Moroccan Sources Cited on Islamic Summit

LD301506 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 30 Dec 83

['Atif 'Awdah report]

[Text] Rabat, 30 Dec (KUNA) — Official Moroccan sources in Rabat have stated to KUNA that an Islamic foreign ministers' conference will be held there from 12-14 January to draw up the agenda for the fourth Islamic summit conference to be held in Casablanca from 16-17 January.

A senior Moroccan official told KUNA that the question of Egypt's participation in the Islamic summit conference meetings will be discussed should it be raised by one of the Arab countries, but he discounted any Egyptian participation in the fourth Islamic summit conference as its participation would escalate the problems and conflicts facing the Arab nation. He affirmed that Egyptian participation demands Arab unanimity, which is not as yet available. Egypt's resumption of its political role in the Arab and Islamic world will rest with the Arab summit conference, he said.

The official, who refused to be named, welcomed Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, saying that any meetings among Arabs constitutes a positive step on the road of serving the Palestine cause.

The source also affirmed that Iran will attend the Islamic summit conference and that the Iraqi-Iranian war will be one of the main points on the agenda. Iran announced earlier that it will not attend the conference.

Replying to a KUNA question about the likelihood of some Arab leaders failing to attend the Islamic summit conference, the source said that many Arab leaders will attend. He expressed his hope that the summit conference will provide an opportunity for solving all Arab differences.

Morocco has begun preparations for the conferences, and has made bookings at hotels in Rabat, Mohammadia and Casablanca starting from 10 January. A special press center is also prepared in Casablanca. The Ministry of Information has begun granting press cards.

OAPEC Secretary General on Policy Issues

GF020620 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 31 Dec 83 p 7

[Interview with Dr 'Ali 'Atiqah, secretary general of Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries [OAPEC], by Kamal Jaballah — place, date not given]

[Excerpts] Jaballah: What role can OAPEC play in developing joint Arab oil policies, policies which will be in accordance with various agreements? What obstacles is the organization facing in coordinating the oil policies of its member countries?

Dr 'Atiqah: There are several obstacles. Some are related to the priorities of the development programs in the member countries in relation to the oil and financial resources and the economic circumstances of each member country. Also, there are international obstacles related to the nature of the oil market, which has been unstable for the past 10 years, and this of course involves the oil policy of each country as well as its foreign policy. The organization has helped to create an atmosphere of cooperation and coordination in all areas except in prices and production, which are areas of OAPEC's exclusive domain. The organization has been successful in developing regional oil industrialization, in training local technical staff and placing them in responsible positions in the oil industry while educating them in the importance of safeguarding Arab oil resources and in regulating oil and energy consumption in oil-producing countries.

Jaballah: The big oil companies used to handle coordination of the oil industry in the Arab region according to their interests. What is the alternative to this and how efficient is it?

Dr 'Atiqah: The alternative is the national oil companies formed by the governments concerned. These national oil companies and governments cooperate, hold contacts, and exchange information. Coordination is enhanced by instituting joint projects, by pursuing a joint marketing policy, and by making use of organizations and groupings such as the OAPEC and OPEC to broaden the basis for cooperation and joint work.

Jaballah: Concerning prices, the industrialized countries have succeeded in turning the oil market into a "buyers market" and created a lot of problems for OPEC countries in pricing and production. What lies ahead for OPEC and what are the chances of developing and implementing a long-term strategy?

Dr 'Atiqah: I believe that OPEC's future is still in the hands of its members and that the OPEC member countries can be very effective in the future by developing a production and marketing strategy that safeguards OPEC's position as a main producer and exporter in the field of energy, particularly in matters which concern oil. In should be noted that short-term considerations and decisions which are adopted regarding short-term considerations will define the course of long-term strategy.

Jaballah: Is it true that judicial committee is currently trying to find a solution to the dispute between Iraq and Syria on pumping oil through the pipeline through Syria?

Dr 'Atiqah: I am not authorized to discuss the nature of this dispute politically or otherwise. But I will say that the issue is now in the hands of the judicial committee which has not issued a decision yet. I cannot discuss the possible outcome of the dispute. The judicial committee specializes in handling disputes, and even the organization's ministerial council has not discussed this issue since it is in the hands of the judicial committee.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC Ministerial Council To Meet 9 Jan

GF021804 Doha QNA in Arabic 1755 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 2 Jan (QNA) — It has been decided that the GCC ministerial council's extraordinary conference will be held in Riyadh next Monday, 9 January.

The UAE Foreign Ministry today received notification to this effect from the GCC secretariat-general.

KUWAIT

U.S. Mideast Policy in 1983 Criticized

LD311142 Kuwait KUNA in English 1011 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 31 (KUNA) — Leading daily *AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM* Saturday summed up 1983 as the year "marked by a blunt American leap, with Lebanon a pivotal victim and Palestine a total loss,thanks to an overall American-Israeli strategic pact."

"Despite a brave campaign of mounting Arab Lebanese resistance against the Israeli-American invasion force (in Lebanon), it has been too horrible still to watch America continue to jolt Arab countries into signing (agreements with Israel) and simultaneously announce its overall strategic alliance with this Jewish state despite Arab (opposition). This could only suggest that Israel has become as obligatory and overt a presence as is the case with America," the newspaper noted.

Voicing a pessimistic outlook, the newspaper admitted "it's hard to expect a change to affect the Middle East situation, as next year is only far from this year by a walking distance to the candle."[sentence as received]

The newspaper warned that in spite of "terrifying" steps taken this year to allow the implementation of Reagan's initiative for peace in the Middle East, the matter will not stop at that since "the next issue to follow would be that of Palestinians not included in the initiative (those outside the West Bank and the Gaza Strip), which will prove the whole scheme is totally impossible to implement and henceforth that the U.S. is an aggressor, not a peace seeker."

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM referred to another front where it said America was fighting Arabs throughout last year.

In addition to Lebanon, it indicated, America has made the Gulf, without referring or asking anyone, as one of "mere American interests" and with all military and political means it musters has tried to impose this on the rest of the Arabs."

PDRY

YSP Chairman on U.S. Presence in Region

GF310558 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers has asserted that Israeli aggression and the U.S. presence within the framework of the multinational troops — or in an individual form — now represent factors of instability and tension in the Arab region.

In his article in the newspaper *ATH-THAWRI* on the occasion of the new year, published this morning, the brother secretary general added that the U.S. presence represents a flagrant aggression against the sovereignty of our Arab people and a violation of [words indistinct] that makes the region the area of focus that threatens with the possibility of [word indistinct].

The brother secretary general began his article by referring to the retreat and temporary victories witnessed by the revolutionary forces in this or that part of the world as a result of the increasing the U.S. attack, which now exposes the world to the danger of a nuclear catastrophe.

He noted the efforts of cooperation and coordination between the leaderships of the two parts of Yemen and the security, stability and the expansion of common work in the political, economic, social and cultural fields for the benefit of the Yemeni people.

Djibouti President Departs After Brief Visit

GF311410 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Djibouti President Hassan Gouled, along with the delegation that accompanied him, left Aden today at the end of an official 3-day visit to the PDRY.

President Gouled was seen off at Aden International Airport by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers; members of the Political Bureau and the YSP Central Committee; ministers; and members of diplomatic missions in Aden.

During his visit President Hassan Gouled held official talks with Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and PDRY officials on cooperation between the two fraternal countries as well as issues of mutual interest.

Press Statement Issued
GF311408 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Dec 83

["Text" of press statement on visit of Djibouti President Hassan Gouled Apidon to the PDRY, issued on 31 December 1983]

[Text] At the invitation of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, President Hassan Gouled Apidon made an official and friendly visit to the PDRY from 29 to 31 December.

A great official and popular welcome was accorded to President Hassan Gouled which reflected the strength of the brotherly and historic relations between the two fraternal countries and peoples.

During the visit, Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and President Hassan Gouled held talks on relations between the two fraternal countries and comprehensively reviewed current developments in the region, as well as the Arab and international situations.

The two leaders expressed their great satisfaction with the exchange of visits and the regular exchange of views on various developments in the region and emphasized their determination to contribute toward the establishment of stability in the region.

The PDRY and Djibouti delegations also held official talks that dealt with bilateral cooperation. Bilateral meetings were held during the visit between the ministers of foreign affairs, interior, and industry of the two sides. The meetings resulted in the two countries agreeing to coordinate and increase bilateral cooperation in the fields discussed.

The minutes of an agreement on cooperation between the two countries was signed. The minutes of the agreement were signed on the PDRY side by Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, member of the YSP Central Committee and foreign minister; and on the Djibouti side by Moumin Bahdon Farah, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

President Hassan Gouled expressed his pleasure and the pleasure of the delegation accompanying him on visiting their second homeland, the PDRY, and for the fraternal relations between the PDRY and Djibouti. He expressed his confidence that these relations will be strengthened in the future to serve the interests of the two fraternal countries and peoples. He asserted that the results of his visit and talks with Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad were positive.

President Hassan Gouled expressed his great thanks to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and to the YSP leadership and the PDRY Government and people for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to him and to the delegation accompanying him.

At the conclusion of the visit, President Hassan Gouled Apidon of Djibouti extended an invitation to 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to visit the Republic of Djibouti. Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad accepted the invitation and the date of the visit will be fixed later.

PFLP Official Arrives With Habash Message
GF301930 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ali Mustafa, PFLP assistant secretary general, arrived in Aden today on a visit to the PDRY that will last several days. During his visit, Abu 'Ali Mustafa will hold talks with party and government officials on the latest Palestinian and Arab developments.

In a statement to ANA, Brother Abu 'Ali Mustafa said that he is carrying a message from PFLP Secretary General George Habash to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad on recent important political developments. He said the aim of his visit is to hold talks with PDRY officials and to consult on various issues that are of interest to the Yemeni and Palestinian peoples in light of the latest developments.

Brother Abu 'Ali Mustafa was received at the airport by Mahmud an-Najashi, YSP Central Committee assistant secretary.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting
LD022244 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2155 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Riyadh, 2 Jan (SPA) — King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz chaired the Council of Ministers meeting held this evening.

After the meeting, the minister of information, 'Ali ash-Sha'ir told SPA and TV reporters that at this meeting the Council of Ministers continued to show interest in the steps achieved through Palestinian actions and heard the latest reports from Tunis on this matter. The king told the council about the climate surrounding the cause which began to steer towards moderation. His majesty expressed his confidence in the wisdom of the Palestinian leaders and their ability to solve problems among themselves in a way that would make them triumph over personal differences and score a victory over their enemy, who is lying in wait for them and lurking over their homeland. We pray for the Almighty to guide them during their current meetings in Tunis to everything good for the fate of the cause.

The minister added that the council also discussed, at the direction of his majesty the king, some of the topics which will be submitted to the forthcoming Islamic summit conference in preparation for inclusion in the working paper which the delegation of the Kingdom will submit. The council then discussed certain domestic issues and acquainted itself with them in the light of the reports with which the council had been briefed by their sources.

The council reviewed the proposed solutions for these issues. The minister said that the council also reviewed a number of topics

on its agenda and rendered the necessary decisions and recommendations in this regard.

Commentator on Fatah Central Committee Meeting
LD312339 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Dec 83

[News and comment by Husayn al-'Askari]

[Text] The news: The Fatah Central Committee movement has started its meetings in Tunis chaired by Yasir 'Arafat — the PLO chairman — to discuss a number of issues relating to future Palestinian action.

The comment: The unity between the course and contents is always defined by the objective cohesion of the issue which presents itself in the arena. [sentence as heard] The issue concerning the Palestinian people at this moment in time has had topics added to its file whose importance and gravity for future action cannot be ignored. However, the content will retain its effectiveness because this content rests on two basic platforms: the first is the legitimacy of the Palestinian people's demand for their rights and the absolute support for this legitimacy by most of the international community; the second is the capability of the Palestinian people to recover their rights in accordance with its own perception, which is expressed by the struggle through its legitimate representative, the PLO. [sentence as heard]

The Tunis meetings of the leaders of the Palestinian struggle at this time will take into consideration the results of the events that confronted the Palestinian struggle when it was in Tripoli in Lebanon, with the ensuing changes in the fighters' positions — changes that are bound to have repercussions on the future prospects — and in the importance of Palestinian agreement on a basis for future action.

In the shadow of all these considerations, there is the capability of the Palestinians to face the challenge not only from the adversary but also from himself, in order to prove that his room for action for the sake of achieving his legitimate right springs not as a result of his internal differences, as his enemies claim, but rather because what has happened ought to strengthen the determination of the Palestinian people to pursue the struggle for the recovery of their legitimate rights. And because great peoples do not abandon their struggle merely because of small obstacles in their way, and the Palestinian people are one of those peoples.

Thus, he is alone who possesses, through his legitimate representative — the PLO — the power of the last word, and he is capable — God willing — of choosing an option from his convictions, as he is the owner of the right and the most capable of saying the decisive word. [sentence as heard]

UAE

Deputy Prime Minister on Gulf Neutrality, Unity
GF021532 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1310 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Tunis, 2 Jan (WAKH) — Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad, UAE deputy prime minister, has affirmed that the Gulf countries are neutral and that they believe that dialogue is the best way to resolve differences peacefully, that they do not favor blocs and alliances and are always keen to avoid blocs and international conflicts. He emphasized that the region's countries will not allow any external intervention in defending themselves because the region's security is a pan-Arab responsibility which its sons shoulder.

In a statement published in today's issue of the Tunisian daily *L'ACTION, Shaykh Hamdan expressed the hope that there* would be no external interference in the region's affairs, noting that "if a certain interference is imposed on us, we will react as part of the Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf, and that we have friends who sympathize with us." "We are not alone," he added.

Shaykh Hamdan indicated that the Gulf region, which enjoys wealth, natural resources and an important strategic position, has always been an area of international ambitions. The region's people have been able to overcome all obstacles and difficulties which they have faced, thanks to their united stand against all ambitions. What we see today — a unanimity among the region's countries — which springs from their belief in the common fate, he said. Defending the region is the responsibility of its people because we cannot separate the threats posed to any of these countries from those posed to another, he added.

Reportage on U.S. Congressional Visit

Meets With Mubarak

NC311000 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received a U.S. Congressional delegation headed by Barney Frank. Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs and Foreign Ministry first under secretary and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Nicholas Veliotes also attended the meeting. The delegation is currently visiting Cairo.

Al-Baz on Meeting

NC311332 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received a U.S. Congressional delegation headed by Senator [title as heard] Barney Frank.

Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the Presidential Office for Foreign Affairs, attended the meeting and said that President Mubarak explained the recent Middle East developments and repercussions of the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement. Mubarak also explained what transpired during PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's Cairo visit, and indicated the need to achieve some progress along the road toward a comprehensive settlement, a matter which calls for the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Mubarak called on the United States to initiate a dialogue with the PLO because it will enhancey the peace efforts. Mubarak also pointed to the need to achieve simultaneous progress on both the Lebanese and Palestinian fronts. President Mubarak added that the Egyptian people do not harbor any negative feelings or religious bias toward the Jews and they regard the Arab-Israeli conflict a political conflict rather than a religious issue.

Reportage on Reaction to U.S. Policy

'Ali, Shultz Exchange Messages

NC011410 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1342 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jan (MENA) — MENA has learned that Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz have exchanged several important verbal messages on the present situation in the area through diplomatic channels over the past 2 days.

The messages have been exchanged by Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Mr Shultz to complete discussions held on the topics during Mr 'Ali's recent visit to Washington. The messages also dealt with the method to be used to regenerate momentum for the peace process in the Middle East, particularly insofar as the Palestinian and Lebanese issues are concerned.

U.S. UNESCO Withdrawal Regretted

NC011639 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jan (MENA) — The Arab Republic of Egypt has expressed its regret over the U.S. decision to withdraw from UNESCO and has voiced its hope that the U.S. Government will reconsider its decision.

A Foreign Ministry source has stated that Egypt has exerted diplomatic efforts with Washington to urge it to take adequate time before making a decision to withdraw from UNESCO. The source lauded UNESCO's role in preserving human tradition, spreading science and culture, and promoting international cultural cooperation.

Mubarak Congratulates Andropov on New Year

NC311236 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1221 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent a congratulatory cable to Yuriy Andropov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and CPSU Central Committee general secretary, on the occasion of the new year. The following is the text of the cable:

It pleases me to send to Your Excellency sincerest heartfelt congratulations on the new year. I wish you good health and happiness and your friendly people continued progress and prosperity. As we look forward to bolstering relations between our two peoples for their common benefit, we hope that the new year will auger good and peace to all peoples so that a new dawn of security and peace to humanity will be ushered in.

Mubarak Message on Situation to World Leaders

NC311550 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today sent messages to King Husayn of Jordan, Somali President Siad Barre, the FRG Chancellor, the Yugoslav president, Moroccan King Hassan II, and the British prime minister. The messages deal with the latest developments in the Middle East and the means Egypt recommends to activate the peace efforts and halt the threat of deterioration in the area.

Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs delivered Mubarak's message to the ambassadors of Jordan, Somalia, FRG, UK, Yugoslavia, and head of the Moroccan Interests Section in Cairo.

Saudi Prince Talal To Visit Cairo 7 Jan

NC031539 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1524 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 1 Jan [MENA] — Prince Talal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, director of the Arab Gulf Program for Supporting UN Development Organizations and a special UNICEF envoy, will arrive in Cairo next Saturday, an official source in the Foreign Ministry stated.

The Foreign Ministry source added that the visit, which will last 4 days, comes in response to an invitation previously extended by Egypt and recently renewed following contacts between Egypt and Riyadh.

The source said that during the visit the prince is expected to meet Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din; Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Shaykh Jad al-Haq 'Ali Jad al-Haq, grand shaykh of Al-Azhar; and several key officials in the fields of development and child and handicap care.

'Ali To Meet Foreign Ministers of Oman, Australia, UK

NC301342 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Egypt will launch intensive contacts in the upcoming week with several foreign ministers. Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will hold talks with the foreign ministers of Oman, Australia, and United Kingdom who will arrive in Cairo between next week and mid-January. The talks will deal with international issues, the Middle East situation, and bilateral relations.

Ghali to Visit France for Mideast Consultations

NC021700 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak will send three messages at week's end to the presidents of France, Togo, and the People's Republic of Benin. This is what Butrus Ghali, state minister for foreign affairs said during an interview with MENA, adding that he will hand these messages to the presidents of the respective countries during his coming tour.

Asked whether his visit to France indicates an attempt to revive the Egyptian-French plan, Ghali said that the visit aims at consultation with the French Government regarding the recent developments in the Middle East, particularly in light of the new elements introduced to the situation — elements which include the visit of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to Washington and the visit of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Cairo.

Ghali added that his visit to Paris also comes at a time when France will assume the leadership of the European Community for 6 months and Egypt will start its term as a UN Security Council member.

Ghali pointed out that Egypt's aim coincides with that of France; promote the peace efforts in the Middle East by finding a way out of the Lebanese dilemma by guaranteeing the integrity, security, and independence of Lebanese territories and by determining the course that can lead us to a just solution for the Palestinian problem; a solution which permits the Palestinian people to exercise their rights.

Ghali said his talks in France might lead to a series of contacts on the Arab and international levels to explore the suitability of the current conditions for a reintroduction of the Egyptian-French plan, should the other initiatives stumble.

Commenting on his coming visit to Togo and Benin, Ghali said that he will deliver Mubarak's messages to both countries and discuss ways of promoting bilateral relations with their officials.

Ghali pointed out that his tour of Africa comes within Egypt's eagerness to continually consult and exchange views with the African countries. These consultations will take place before the convocation of the regular session of the African Foreign Ministers Council, scheduled to meet in Addis Ababa at the end of February.

Dr Butrus Ghali's tour will last 1 week.

Reportage on Ghali on Recent Developments

Interviewed by MONDAY MORNING

NC030753 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 2-8 Jan 84 pp 60, 61

[Interview by Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs to correspondent Mona as-Sa'id — date and place not given]

[Text] Question: How do you assess the outcome of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with President Mubarak? Does the meeting augur significant policy shifts in the region?

Answer: The meeting between President Mubarak and PLO Chairman 'Arafat was extremely useful and positive. Its real impact on the future of peace in the area cannot be sensed immediately. But it is already clear that it represents, in my view, a major breakthrough for peace in the Middle East.

Question: Is 'Arafat's meeting with President Mubarak likely to promote President Reagan's 1982 peace initiative and provide an opportunity for Washington to open a dialogue with the PLO leader?

Answer: The reconciliation between Egypt and the PLO is a key that will help open many doors and overcome many obstacles, thus paving the way for the implementation of the peace initiatives, be they the Reagan plan, the Fez declaration or the Franco-Egyptian resolution — or even a new plan, which would be based on the common denominator between the three (aforementioned) initiatives.

For our part, we will continue to strongly argue for the absolute necessity of a dialogue between Washington and the PLO, which is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, if Washington wants to fully assume its responsibilities as full partner in the peace process. I think that the Palestinians are perfectly entitled to choose who represents them and it is not up to the U.S. Government or the Israeli Government to make that choice for them. After all, no one argues whether Israel's Government should be headed by Mr Begin, Mr Shamir or someone else, regardless of their past activities, which are well known.

Question: After his Cairo visit, is it your feeling that 'Arafat may now opt for a political solution in cooperation with Jordan?

And, what are the chances of Egypt sitting in on future talks between the PLO leader and King Husayn on the Reagan plan?

Answer: I can only say that I am much more optimistic after meeting with Yasir 'Arafat about the possibility of a "rapprochement" between Jordan and the PLO. Egypt, for its part, will be willing to contribute to the success of the dialogue between the two parties....

If we consider that a trialogue would have more chance of success, then by all means we would not hesitate to join with our Jordanian and Palestinian brothers to help reach a positive agreement.

Question: Has the Reagan administration asked Cairo to sound out 'Arafat on opening U.S.-PLO ties on condition that the PLO recognizes Israel and accepts Security Council Resolution 242?

Answer: No, the U.S. did not ask Egypt to sound out the PLO. But we are already aware of the U.S. position in that regard.

Question: Are you encouraged by President Reagan's support for the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting?

Answer: Yes, it is certainly an encouraging reaction. But we do hope that the U.S. will translate its implications into facts.

Question: Have the 'Arafat-Mubarak talks affected Egyptian-Israeli relations? And what is your comment on the Israeli view that Egypt's hosting of 'Arafat violates at least the spirit of its peace treaty with Israel?

Answer: This might be naive, but I would have imagined that Israel would be happy that such an important party to the Middle East conflict would come closer to the peace process. But the fact is that those who refuse the peace process use the 'Arafat visit as a pretext to accuse Egypt of violating the peace treaty, when what we are doing is trying to win more support for peace in the area and to reinforce the peace. Is that against the spirit of the peace treaty? Surely not. The point is that relations with Israel were already going through a crisis because of Israel's aggression and continued occupation of Lebanese territory and its disrespect of basic human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Question: After the 'Arafat-Mubarak talks, President Reagan said the Lebanese turmoil was no longer an obstacle to overall Middle East peace. Do you subscribe to this view?

Answer: I strongly believe that efforts to solve the Lebanese problem must be parallel with efforts to solve the Palestinian problem and the overall Middle East conflict, due to the interconnection existing between the two problems.

Question: How do you view the chances for peace in a Lebanon free of foreign forces?

Answer: I have faith in the Lebanese genius and political imagination and the capacity of the sons of Lebanon, once free from foreign intervention and maneuvers, to reach a formula for a peaceful, united Lebanon that would be the homeland of all Lebanese regardless of political or religious affiliations.

Question: Has Egypt encouraged 'Arafat to form a government-in-exile?

Answer: It is up to the PLO leadership to decide whether the time is appropriate to take such a step or not after thoroughly studying the present situation.

The real and important issue is not whether the PLO should change its name or its label and become a government-in-exile, but it is to take a positive attitude that would help start negotiations without further delay.

Question: What are the chances now of Egypt rejoining the Arab League and its leadership role in the Arab world?

Answer: Egypt sticks to legality.... The Charter of the Arab League specifies that the headquarters of this organization is in Cairo and until the text of the Charter is amended accordingly, the Arab League in Tunis is illegal, and we are not interested in joining an institution that is based on illegality.

As far as leadership is concerned, it is a very different matter. It needs no decision or resolution to be adopted. Egypt leads because it has the political and military weight to lead and also the courage to act when it is necessary to act. Furthermore, Egypt's geopolitical position between the Mashrek and the Maghreb and its demographic weight make it a natural leader in the area regardless of the options and attitudes adopted by some Arab countries.

Question: Cairo and Amman have just signed a new protocol aimed at reviving economic ties between them. Does this mark the end of the Arab economic boycott of Egypt in much the same way that 'Arafat's Cairo visit marked the end of the political boycott?

Answer: Neither the economic nor the political boycott of Egypt has ever been a reality. It was a mere facade behind which many contacts and transactions were taking place. Now this facade is crumbling down.

Statement to MAY

NC020726 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0622 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has asserted that Egyptian diplomacy follows a firm strategy toward the Palestinian issue and that it will continue to adhere to this strategy in the forthcoming stage. He said this strategy is represented by constant work to keep the Palestinian issue alive, by encouraging the moderate wing within the PLO, and by resisting rejection and extremism, which lead to a freezing of the issue. The strategy also takes the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza sector into consideration and the defense of their rights vis-a-vis the challenges of occupation.

In a statement to today's issue of the weekly *MAY*, Ghali dealt with the implications of the 22 December visit to Cairo by Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman. He stressed that the visit is an indication that the philosophy of negotiations and dialogue in the Arab mind has won over the philosophy of

rejection and extremism. He pointed out that the importance of the Cairo meeting is represented in the fact that it has broken the psychological barrier that governs relations between certain Arab countries and Egypt, because the Arab boycott of Egypt was caused by the Palestinian issue.

Regarding the U.S. role following 'Arafat's visit to Cairo, Dr Ghali pointed out that U.S. policy is required to act and encourage the positive development of the situation. It is required to reconsider its refusal to enter into direct contact with the PLO. U.S. policy must help 'Arafat to make further steps toward peace.He emphasized the results of 'Arafat's visit will depend on the Arab countries' emerging from the surprise caused by the Cairo meeting and on giving up hesitation, reservation, and silence, because all Arab countries are responsible for the issue and for exerting efforts to push the peace process.

Ghali stressed Egypt's readiness to play a role in making the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue — over which there is hope it can be revived — succeed. He also stressed Egypt's readiness to play a role in bringing success to future Jordanian-Palestinian-U.S. negotiations to reach an acceptable settlement that ensures Palestinian rights.

On 'Foreign Policy' Program

NC301511 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1255 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Statement by Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, to the "Foreign Policy" program; date not given — recorded]

[Text] The meeting which took place on 22 December [between President Mubarak and 'Arafat] in fact means the resumption of dialogue between Egypt and the legitimate Palestinian leadership at its highest levels. However, this does not mean that the dialogue was previously absent. There was a dialogue at the level of the PLO's office in Cairo and the Foreign Ministry. However, the dialogue which took place on 22 December is new because it took place at the highest level.

This dialogue falls within Egypt's continued efforts to reach a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and find a formula enabling the participation of the Palestinian people's representative in the peace process. I can add here that these efforts are not new. Since [As-Sadat's] Jerusalem visit, Egyptian diplomacy has been trying to include the Palestinian people in the peace process. We have presented several memoranda, including the latest memorandum of 13 October 1980 to Sol Linowitz, personal representative of President Carter. This memorandum was titled: "The Way To Deal With the Palestinian People" — how to include the Palestinian people in the peace process.

The ['Arafat] visit has clear political significance. On one hand, it means that the legitimate Palestinian leadership has chosen the attitude of peaceful political struggle and the strategy of peace. On the other hand, the visit means that there is an agreement, orthe beginning of an agreement to form a common strategy between Cairo and the PLO. Various ideas were discussed in the talks between Mubarak and 'Arafat as well as during the talks between the Foreign Ministry and 'Arafat's accompanying delegation. These talks were very fruitful. We have agreed to continue the consultation at the highest levels so that we can free the Palestinian issue from the stagnation threatening it. This stagnation results from the Lebanese crisis, the new cold war looming on the horizon of international politics, and other reasons including the U.S. election year which will start within the next few days. These reasons impose a kind of stagnation on the Palestinian issue. Thus, we should be moving; Yasir 'Arafat's visit undoubtedly represents a new move for the Palestinian issue in the framework of negotiation, dialogue, and diplomacy.

Reportage on 'Abd al-Hamid's Israel Visit

Departs From Israel

NC301005 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA) — Egyptian Assistant Foreign Minister Ash-Shafi 'Abd al-Hamid left Israel this morning for Cairo following a 1-day visit.

Radio Israel broadcast this news noting that during the visit Ash-Shafi 'Abd al-Hamid conducted talks with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Dr David Kimche, director general at the Foreign Ministry.

Returns, Makes Statement

NC301640 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1623 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA) — Egyptian Assistant Foreign Minister Ash-Sahfi'i 'Abd al-Hamid returned to Cairo today following a 1-day visit to Israel, during which he met with Israeli Prime Minister Shamir and other officials. In an arrival statement, Ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid said he will submit a report on the outcome of his talks to Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Ghali Receives Envoy

NC311503 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today met with Ambassador Ash-Shafi 'Abd al-Hamid, assistant foreign minister, who briefed him on the results of his talks in Israel.

'Abd al-Hamid presented a full report to Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on his 1-day visit to Israel during which he held talks on the unsettled issues between Egypt and Israel as well as some matters of interest to Egypt.

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,326
JN301724 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,326 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 30 December 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our heroic Armed Forces are continuing their powerful activities and brave fighting against the forces of the criminal enemy in the various operational sectors. The results achieved last night and this morning are as follows:

1. At 1100 today, a formation of our courageous fighter aircraft spotted two enemy F-5 fighter planes southeast of Ahvaz moving in the direction of our international border east of Basra. The formation engaged the two enemy planes in a dogfight, and succeeded in hitting and destroying them. Our brave eagles saw the two planes explode in midair. Praise be to God, all our aircraft returned safely to their bases after successfully accomplishing their mission.

2. Our frontline units used all types of weapons to engage enemy positions and troop concentrations facing them in the central operational sector. In the process, two enemy soldiers were killed, and one tank, one infantry position, and one ammunition dump were destroyed.

3. Our frontline units used all types of weapons to engage enemy positions facing them east of Basra, scoring direct hits and destroying one excavator.

4. The criminal Khomeyniite clique shelled Mandali and its suburbs today, damaging civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 30 December 1983.

Communique No 1,327
JN311655 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1636 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Dec (INA) — Over the past 24 hours, the forward Iraqi units have killed eight Iranian soldiers, wounded others, and captured one soldier. Communique No 1,327 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command here tonight says that the Iranian artillery today shelled Mandali and its suburbs damaging a number of civilian establishments. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,327 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The triumphant forces of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah have continued their operations at the front against the Khomeyniite forces of aggression. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. In the central sector of the front, our combat patrol units opened fire at a number of enemy soldiers opposite our positions killing one soldier and capturing another who was evacuated to the rear. Five enemy soldiers were also killed in another area of the same sector.

2. In the area east of Basra, one of our forward units attacked an enemy patrol which attempted to advance toward our positions. Our forces killed two enemy soldiers and forced the others to flee. Our combat patrol units in the same sector attacked a number of enemy men and excavators opposite our forward positions. One excavator was damaged and a number of enemy men were wounded.

3. In the northern sector of the front, our forward units attacked a number of enemy soldiers opposite our positions killing or wounding five of them.

4. Today, the artillery of the criminal Khomeyniites shelled Mandali and its suburbs damaging a number of civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 31 December 1983

Communique No 1,328
JN011717 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Communique No 1,328 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 1 January 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our valiant Armed Forces, while sharing with our proud people their rejoicing over Christmas and the new year, emphasize that they will remain a strong shield and long arm which protect Iraq's land, sky, and waters against the covetous aggressors, and will continue to score further victories over the forces of the hateful Khomeyniite evil and aggression. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing 12, wounding others, and destroying 2 infantry positions, 1 observation post, and 1 medium machine gun.

2. A formation of our capable fighter planes today attacked the enemy artillery emplacements opposite our forward units' positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, scoring direct and effective hits. All our fighter planes returned safely to base, praise be to God.

4. Our forward units opened fire on an enemy observation post and some engineering equipment opposite our positions east of Basra and managed to destroy the observation post, seriously hit the engineering equipment, kill four enemy troops, wound others, and destroy one hardware stockpile. This afternoon our air defenses intercepted two enemy fighter planes which tried to approach our forward positions in the same sector and forced them to flee inside Iranian territory.

4. One infantry position was destroyed and its occupants killed in the northern sector of the battlefield.

5. The spiteful Khomeyniite regime today shelled Khurmal and (Shandari) and their environs with artillery, causing damage to some civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 1 January 1984

Communique No 1,329

JN021800 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1715 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Communique No 1,329 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 2 January 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With high efficiency and capability the soldiers of right and justice are continuing their ground, sea, and air activities against the forces of the spiteful Khomeyniite clique. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. This morning an enemy naval convoy, consisting of several naval targets, was spotted in the Khowr-e Musa area in the northeastern part of the Arab Gulf while trying to enter Bandar-e Khomeyni. Our daring naval units and capable fighter planes intercepted them and dealt them strong and effective blows, and managed at successive times this morning to hit and destroy four naval targets. Another naval target tried to sneak away in the direction of the Iranian port of Bandar-e Deylam. Our valiant naval units attacked and destroyed it. The rest of the targets moved away in disarray and confusion, leaving behind the damaged and destroyed targets which were on fire. Our forward observation posts saw and heard explosions and columns of smoke billowing from the area where the targets were hit.

In an attempt to rescue what was left of its damaged and destroyed targets, the enemy sent some of its helicopter gunships to the scene of the attack. Our fighter planes intercepted them and managed to hit and down a helicopter gunship of the Chinook type. Our valiant pilots saw it crash into the sea. The other enemy helicopter gunships fled the area. All our naval units and fighter planes returned safely to base, praise be to God, except for two fighter planes which crashed in the area after carrying out their duty. We hold the Iranian regime responsible for the safety of the two pilots.

2. One of our combat patrols carried out an operation against an enemy force opposite our positions east of Basra. Our patrol opened fire on this force, killing or wounding several troops. The enemy sustained four dead elsewhere in the same area.

3. One of our forward units opened artillery fire on an enemy troop concentration opposite our positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, killing or wounding a number of personnel.

4. One was killed in the central sector of the battlefield.

5. The criminal Iranian regime shelled the cities of Basra and Mandali and the villages of (Shahrazur) and (Qazaniyah) and their environs with artillery yesterday evening and today. The savage enemy shelling resulted in the martyrdom of one child, the injury of five civilians, and the demolition of one house in Basra. It also caused damage to some civilian establishments in Mandali, (Shahrbazar), and (Qazanqaya).

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 2 January 1984

President Tours Front, Meets Commanders

JN311633 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Over the past 2 days, leader President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, toured the sectors of the III and IV Army Corps, one of the II Corps divisions, and the command of the naval forces and the coastal defense forces. The president met with the commanders and officers. He also inspected the cities of Basra and Maysan.

Tariq 'Aziz on Iraq-Iran War, U.S. Relations

PM030952 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 31 Dec 83-6 Jan 84 pp 12,13

[Muhammad Ma'tuq report on interview with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Baghdad: "Iraq-Iran War Continuing" — date not specified]

[Excerpts] One of the signs from which the Iraqis conclude that "the war has objectively ended" is the fact that the Iranians have shifted from acts of sabotage against them to sabotage in certain Gulf states, the latest instance being what happened in Kuwait early this month. But on the other hand, the Iraqis are not optimistic that the end of the war is imminent, and the horizon of peace seems too distant to talk about on the threshold of 1984. The war for Iran, according to senior Iraqi officials, is an internal game and its end depends entirely on a decision by Iran and not by any other party. And because Iran's attrition of Iraq will not stop — in the foreseeable future at least — and because Iraq has navigation rights in the Gulf which it will continue to exercise and defend, military operations will continue.

This view was expressed to *AL-MAJALLAH* by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister And Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who last year made several visits to the Soviet Union, France, and China. Last week he also met with President Reagan's envoy to the Middle East, Donald Rumsfeld, whose visit to Iraq was the first on this level since the severance of diplomatic relations between the two countries in June 1967.

'Aziz says that Iran has failed to achieve a military victory against Iraq, just as it failed in its political and ideological war, including the idea of exporting the revolution. Therefore he believes that the war has "objectively ended" but, on the other hand, he explains that this does not mean that it has stopped or is going to stop. He says: "The Iranian rulers do not wish to admit their failure because they have to a large extent linked their fate to the success of the military and ideological war against Iraq. They are afraid that, by admitting the failure of the war, they will face a difficult internal crisis in Iran." 'Aziz points

to Iran's rejection of Security Council Resolution 540, issued last October, which calls for an end to military operations and provides for freedom of navigation for all the parties concerned. He asserts that Iraq has always been and still is ready to reach "a peaceful settlement of the conflict that would ensure the legitimate rights of both sides and preserves the dignity of both."

The central issue for Baghdad now is to regain its right to free navigation in the Gulf and the right to use the Iraqi ports overlooking the Gulf for the export of Iraqi oil. Iraq is backed by the Security Council resolution, but, as far as Mr 'Aziz knows, UN Secretary General de Cuellar has not yet carried out his task of putting the resolution into effect. The Iraqi foreign minister says: "It is natural for Iraq to take measures to defend its interests and to let the other party realize the seriousness of its continuing to deny Iraq its rights." 'Aziz believes that Iran's rejection of the Security Council means that it wants to continue pursuing this course. Therefore Iraq "will adopt measures to protect those rights." 'Aziz does not call this escalation but, on the other hand, he stresses that "Iraqi military operations will be clearly evident in the future. If Iran launches new attacks they will be repelled and crushed, just as before." 'Aziz denies that there are red lines as far as Iraq's military operations are concerned. Iraq does not determine its actions in the light of Iranian threats, which 'Aziz describe as "blackmail operations." He explains that Iran's threats to close the Strait of Hormuz to international navigation "are more blackmail than a serious threat, for Iran cannot do without the Strait, through which it imports everything and exports its oil. Therefore if it closes the Strait it will be tightening the noose around its own neck and strangling itself." 'Aziz points out that experience of Iranian threats has proved this idea to be correct. At the beginning, the Iranian officials threatened retaliatory actions against France if it delivered the Super Etendard planes to Iraq. So far the Iranians have not carried out their threats, despite the fact that these planes are now in Iraq's hands.

Asked by *AL-MAJALLAH* why the Super Etendards have not yet been used, and whether there are any political or technical obstacles, 'Aziz denied the existence of any sort of obstacle. He added that "no political consideration other than Iraqi will prevents their use." As to when they will be used, this is a matter "left to such time as we see fit." Most likely, the Iraqis have suspended the decision to use these planes pending the completion by De Cuellar of his activities to implement the Security Council resolution on ending military operations between Iraq and Iran.

Asked what Mr Rumsfeld did in Baghdad, 'Aziz said that the U.S. presidential envoy's visit to the Iraqi capital and his meeting with President Saddam Husayn and himself was at the request of Rumsfeld. "He wished to visit, so we welcomed him," he said. 'Aziz says that Iraq had previously welcomed visits to Baghdad by any U.S. official, and Rumsfeld's visit falls within the context of this policy. He said: "The United States considers that Iraq is an important state in this area and has a positive role to play in ensuring security and stability in it. We are glad that the United States has discovered this fact, which is evident to every objective observer."

According to 'Aziz, Rumsfeld's visit was a "visit of familiarization and exchange of views within a general framework," which means that no understanding was reached on details during the visit. 'Aziz said that Rumsfeld "spoke of Washington's strong support for a peaceful end to the Iraq-Iran conflict. He believes that the continuation of war constitutes a danger to the security and interests of the countries of the area which will have harmful international repercussions.

This is certainly a positive thing. We said this to Rumsfeld, but we also told him that we hope that this conviction will be translated into actual policies toward the war, whether on the part of the United States or of its Western allies." 'Aziz added:

"We are not asking the United States to be biased, but if neutrality means indifference then this would be less than the area and the world expect from it and from the Security Council permanent member-states, which are officially responsible for preserving peace and security throughout the world."

'Aziz believes that Iran's decision to continue the war is based on the availability of financial and military resources which sometimes are provided to it by quarters which in one way or another are associated with the United States. Therefore he expects the United States to translate what Rumsfeld said "into effective initiatives."

Among the quarters associated with the United States 'Aziz cites Israel, which supplies Iran with "arms, spare parts, equipment, and military expertise." The Iraqi minister stresses that he is "personally convinced that U.S. establishments have at least in the past supplied Iran with military hardware." He said that this matter was previously as well as recently raised with U.S. officials. He revealed that until about a year ago the U.S. side used to deny responsibility when this matter was raised, but "in today's world we are not always convinced by such justifications." The Iraqi minister added that "the United States might now feel that such actions is wrong" but, he explained, "I have no guarantees that the United States will finally stop carrying out such operations." 'Aziz observes that the tenor of U.S. officials' talk with Iraqi officials is now different from what it was a year ago. He attributes this to the fact that Washington "made the wrong gambles in the area, one of which was that Iran could directly or indirectly change the situation in Iraq."

Continuing, he said: "Regardless of their intentions, the Americans are pragmatic and their principle is pragmatism." When they discovered that they had gambled wrongly and that their expectations had failed, thanks to Iraq's steadfastness in the face of Iran and to the fact that the regime has proved its ability to defend itself and to build a strong and cohesive Iraq, the 'pragmatists' had to deal with this reality sooner or later."

But does this mean that Iraqi-U.S. relations will soon return to normal? 'Aziz replied: "This depends on Iraq becoming sure that the U.S. official statements are translated into effective policies." He said that this will "facilitate" the task of restoring diplomatic relations, and therefore it can be said that Washington's intentions are now being tested.

King Husayn Receives Egypt's Al-Baz 2 Jan

JN021633 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn received at the An-Nadwah Palace today Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the presidential office for political affairs and Foreign Ministry first under secretary. Dr Al-Baz conveyed to his majesty a message from His Excellency President Husni Mubarak of Egypt on the current Arab situation, the bases of Arab political moves in the Arab and international arenas meant to give momentum to peace efforts in the Middle East, and the results of the talks President Mubarak held with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat during his visit to Cairo.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the minister of the court, and the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces attended the meeting. Dr Al-Baz arrived in Amman today.

Al-Baz Departs for Baghdad

NC030835 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Amman, 3 Jan (MENA) — Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the presidential office for political affairs, left Amman this morning for Baghdad to deliver a message from President Mubarak to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Al-Baz arrived in Amman yesterday and delivered to King Husayn a message from President Mubarak within the framework of the messages President Mubarak has sent to Arab and foreign leaders regarding Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and current developments in the area. Before departing Amman, Al-Baz met with Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan to complete the consultations that took place between he and King Husayn yesterday.

AR-RA'Y Reports on Oil Production in 1984

JN010818 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *AR-RA'Y* can assert that oil will soon flow in Jordan in commercial quantities, and that 1984 will be the year of oil in Jordan. Informed sources told *AR-RA'Y* that the nation's team in charge of drilling for oil has achieved in the past few days results that augur well and indicate the existence of a stratum of oil which might be commercial. The sources said that a 1,500 meter well was drilled, and after 6 meters the well produced 400 barrels per day. This means that the area in which the drilling took place contains a quantity of good commercial oil, because the sulfur ratio in the produced oil does not exceed 1 percent, while the sulfur ratio in the oil of some neigboring countries is estimated to be 6 percent. The parties in charge of the drilling expressed optimism, and said that next 48 hours will confirm the final results achieved and will fix the size of the flow. The source said: I can assert that 1984 will be the year of oil in Jordan.

Prime Minister Comments

JN021303 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Amman — Prime Minister Mudar Badran has announced that the oil prospects from the latest well at Tall Burma near Al-Azraq are very good. Answering a question by a number of National Consultative Council members during a session held today under Speaker Sulayman 'Arar, the prime minister said: We are in the process of ascertaining the boundaries of the area where oil is available in order to move on to the production stage. The prime minister also said that the ratio of sulfur in the discovered oil does not exceed 1.1. percent and that this oil can be treated in the Jordanian oil refinery. The prime minister said that the discovered oil contains 55 percent fuel oil, 35 percent kerosene and diesel oil, and 10 percent gasoline.

Iranian Official Implicated in Marines Bombing

NC021858 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] A secret report, which the security organs have received, has revealed that the person who gave the order to blow up the U.S. Marine Headquarters in Beirut is (Hoseyn ol-Eslam Zadi), Iranian Foreign Ministry under secretary, also head of the Revolutionary Guard and revolutionary cells abroad. (Zadi) visited Damascus on 19 November 1983 and met with Husayn al-Musawi and the chief of the Iranian Revolutionary Division in Ba'labakk known as (Abu Muslih) and later departed for Libya. The report also reveals that Zadi visited Damascus 2 days before the U.S. Embassy in Beirut was bombed.

Iranians Target U.S. Ships

NC301728 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Security sources revealed today that gunmen in the southern suburb [of Beirut] have recently received weapons of various types, a quantity of explosive charges, and equipment for carrying out terrorist operations. This equipment was distributed among the pro-Iran Hezbollah Party, the Musawi Group, and certain Palestinians.

In another development, U.S. intelligence sources have revealed that some Iranian Revolutionary Guards are being trained to carry out suicide operations agains U.S. ships in the Indian Ocean and Arab Gulf. CBS said Iranian suicide pilots are receiving training courses on F-14's and (?S-33).

Reportage on Italian Defense Minister's Visit

Arrives in Beirut

NC301402 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1301 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini arrived in Beirut a while ago for a lightning visit to Beirut. During the visit, Mr Spadolini will visit the men serving with the Italian contingent of the Multinational Force. Mr Spadolini's special aircraft landed at the air base at the airport. On hand to meet Minister Spadolini was the commander of the Italian contingent, General Franco Angioni, the officers of the contingent, and a number of Lebanese officers. Minister Spadolini went to the Italian contingent's headquarters on Airport Road a short while ago.

Meets Al-Jumayyil, Salim

NC310505 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] At the beginning of this news review, we would like to mention yesterday's [30 Dec] most prominent political and security event, that is, Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini's visit to Beirut. The purpose of the visit is to inspect the Italian force in Lebanon. The visit has also contributed to halting the furor presently being raised over the future Italian participation in the Multinational Force. Spadolini emphasized that his country is committed to backing Lebanon until its crisis is resolved. He has noted that the Italian contingent now present in Lebanon, and comprised of volunteers, will be replaced by a force of over 1,000 regular Army soldiers.

Minister Spadolini arrived in Beirut at 1400. He was met at the airport by Italian contingent Commander General Franco Angioni; the contingent's officers; and a number of Lebanese officers.

Immediately upon his arrival, Minister Spadolini went to the Italian contingent's headquarters on Airport Road. In the evening, the general was received by President Amin al-Jumayyil at B'abda Palace in the presence of Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim and Italian Ambassador to Beirut Franco Otieri. During the 2-hour meeting, both sides reviewed the present political and security situation.

What happened during the meeting at B'abda Palace? Official sources reporty that the Italian defense minister informed President al-Jumayyil and Minister Salim that his government has decided to reorganize the Italian contingent serving with the Multinational Force in Beirut. This reorganization is based on replacing the present members of the contingent — some 2,000 men — with a unit of the regular Army composed of 1,000 men equipped with all the necessary equipment and military vehicles to enable them to perform their appropriate military role.

In presenting the reasons for the Italian decision, Spadolini said most of the Italian soldiers currently in Lebanon are university students not yet conversant with harsh military life.

As the same sources said, the Italian defense minister emphasized that the reduction in the number of the Italian contingent members and their replacement with regular Army troops does not signify a minimization of the political commitment, because the commitment to Lebanon will be honored, and the contingent will remain in Beirut until the Lebanese issue is resolved. At any rate, as Spadolini said, this is an adequate force. Thanks to the quality of its men, the force will enjoy the very same efficiency as that of the outgoing contingent. The new contingent will discharge the task that is required of it, that is, preserving security and peace in Greater Beirut and in providing political backing for Lebanese legitimacy in total solidarity with the U.S., French, and British contingents serving with the Multinational Force.

The official sources added that Minister Spadolini was briefed by President Al-Jumayyil and Minister Salim on the results of the move Lebanon is making at several levels to prepare a propitious atmosphere for tackling the present political and security issues, and for laying the groundwork for the second session of the Geneva conference.

Spadolini asked questions regarding the Syrian, Saudi, Egyptian, Libyan, and U.S. stances on the recent developments; regarding the relationship between the Iraqi-Iranian war and the present events in Lebanon and the area; and concerning the role of the Palestinians, as well as the fate of Mr Yasir 'Arafat following his second departure from Lebanon — this time for Tripoli.

During the review of developments, President al-Jumayyil reiterated Lebanon's thanks for the role that the Italian contingent is playing, and for the tasks that this contingent has discharged in the security and humanitarian domains. The president emphasized Italy's important role in helping Lebanon overcome the current phase. He voiced his hope that Italian support for Lebanon will continue in the political and security spheres.

Finally we note that Minister Spadolini had dinner with the Italian military personnel at the command headquarters on Airport Road. Spadolini will leave Beirut for Rome after wishing the Italian personnel a happy New Year.

On Contingent's Future, Role

AU311425 Rome ANSA in English 0820 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] (ANSA) Beirut, December 31 — The Italian contingent in the Multinational Peacekeeping Force will remain in Lebanon as long as nothing happens that could prevent it from fulfilling the task it was sent here for, Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini said here Friday.

Spadolini arrived in Beirut yesterday to spend New Year's Eve with the soldiers.

"The Italian Government is aware of its commitments and responsibilities in the moment", [as received] he said. "Italian soldiers will not make a single gesture against anyone and will adapt their action to the orginal requirements of the peacekeeping force.

"By serving the cause of peace, the Italians serve also the cause of humanity and this is demonstrated by the effective protection of the Palestinian refugee camps also during the bloody battles on Christmas Day", Spadolini concluded.

Leaves for Cairo 31 Dec

NC311045 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini left Beirut today for Cairo following his talks with President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil. The talks dealt with the Lebanese crisis and the present situation of the Italian contingent of the Multinational Force. Following his talks with the Lebanese officials, the Italian minister affirmed his country's commitment to Lebanon and the Italian force's continued presence until the Lebanese problem is solved.

Italian Officials on Policy, Spadolini Visit

Deny Force Reduction Discussed

NC011354 Paris AFP in English 1349 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Rome, Jan 1 (AFP) — Italian officials quoted today have denied reports that a reduction in the Italian peacekeeping contingent in Lebanon was discussed by Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini during a visit to Beirut on Friday.

The Italian news agency ANSA, in a report from Beirut, quoted sources close to the defence minister as saying Mr Spadolini did not discuss the matter either with President Amin al-Jumayyil or other Lebanese leaders. Since early December, the Italian Government has envisaged reducing its contingent from 2,100 to 1,100 men but no date has been set officially. However, Lebanese radio said Mr Spadolini used his two-day stay in Lebanon to inform the authorities that a first withdrawal of 800 men could be expected immediately.

But ANSA today said the Italian delegation had merely set the "restructuring of the Italian contingent" in the context of a redefinition of the Multinational Force's task.

Officials quoted by ANSA said Italy had deplored the lack of coordination between the four contingents — from Britain, Italy, the United States, and France — that make up the Multinational Force. The Italians had criticised the unilateral withdrawal by French troops from two posts which led to fierce fighting at Christmas between the Lebanese Army and the Shi'ite Amal Movement.

ANSA said Mr Spadolini had asked President al-Jumayyil for "adequate guarantees concerning police checks carried out inside the Palestinian camps" the Italian contingent is responsible for supervising. The controls "must not be done without coordination with the Italian contingent," ANSA wote.

(Yesterday, the French commander in Beirut, General Francois Cann said his Italian counterpart had told him yesterday of the decision to reduce the Italian contingent to 1,300 men. Gen Cann, interviewed by a local French radio in Toulouse, said the decision would come into effect at an unspecified date.)

Commander: No Unilateral Withdrawal

AU311532 Rome ANSA in English 1510 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] (ANSA) Milan, December 31 — The commander of the Italian peacekeeping force in Beirut, General Franco Angioni, warned here today that things would deteriorate even further in Lebanon if the four-nation force is pulled out.

Interviewed for today's edition of the Milanese daily, *IL GIOR NALE NUOVO*, he said, "the Multinational Force has not stopped the war in Lebanon, but if we go, it will be still worse".

As for the possibility of a "unilateral" Italian withdrawal, Angioni said, "we won't go". The other nations with troops in Beirut are the U.S., France, and Britain. "Rather, I've heard statements suggesting a reduction in our force, but I do not know by how much", the general added.

"Let's suppose we go back to having 1,200 men as we did up until last year. In this case, you have two possibilities — we would have to do without logistical support and reduce leave, or reduce the area under our control".

But Angioni did not deny that a plan for the total evacuation of the Italian troops exists. "We can pull out in a minimum of a few

hours or a maximum of six days", he said. "But it's a scenario I do not take into consideration".

France Planning To Reduce Beirut Forces by 500

BK021318 Hong Kong AFP in English 1225 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Paris, Jan 2 (AFP) — France will reduce its peacekeeping contingent in Beirut by nearly 500 men towards the end of this month, the defence and external relations ministries announced here today. A unit of 482 men temporarily transferred to Beirut from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) will rejoin the United Nations force in southern Lebanon at the end of January. The total number of French troops in Lebanon will remain unchanged.

French officials said the redeployment of the French unit "will obviously not modify the mission of the Multinational Force in Beirut and particularly of the French contingent."

The Defence Ministry said Minister Charles Hernu had personally informed Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil of the decision. The present strength of the French peacekeeping contingent is some 1,750 men. That of French UNIFIL troops was initially 1,380.

Al-Jumayyil Visits Multinational Force Positions

NC010731 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] We have just received the following: President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil spent the last hours of 1983 with the officers and soldiers of the Multinational Force. Yesterday he toured the British positions in Kafr Shima, U.S. positions at the airport, Italian positions on Airport Road, and French positions at the As-Sanawbar Palace. President Al-Jumayyil wished the multinational troops a new year full of goodness. He said that he and the Lebanese people appreciate the importance of the role which they are fulfilling in Lebanon and how they are spending the new year holiday away from their families for the sake of peace in Lebanon and the security of its people. The officers and soldiers of the Multinational Force thanked the president for his visit and his greetings and expressed their hope that the new year will be full of goodness and happiness.

Soviet Ambassador Delivers Supreme Soviet Resolution

NC311044 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Following his visit today to Mansur Palace [Chamber of Deputies], Soviet Ambassador in Beirut Aleksandr Soldatov stated that he handed the text of the Supreme Soviet's resolution on Soviet foreign policy to Deputy Speaker Munir Abu Fadil. Soldatov said the Soviet Union attaches much importance to the successes the Lebanese have made on the level of the National Dialogue and wishes continued success for all future efforts in this regard whether through dialogue or conferences.

Hungarian Ambassador Intercepted by Gunmen

NC311244 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1139 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] We have just received the following: Two gunmen this morning intercepted the car of the Hungarian ambassador to Lebanon, black Mercedes 250 with diplomatic plate number 126/1, in the Al-Janah area of Beirut. The gunmen ordered the ambassador and his driver out of the car before stealing it. The Foreign Ministry has been informed of the incident, and it immediately contacted the Security Committee to tackle it quickly.

Saudi Envoy Says Security Plan Completed

NC021020 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] The new Saudi ambassador to Lebanon today visited Mansur Palace where he met with Munir Abu Fadil, deputy speaker of the Chamber of Deputies. The ambassador said later that the security plan has been completed and he expects its implementation soon.

Arrangements For Riyadh Meeting Being Completed

NC021754 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim today telephoned Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal regarding the tripartite meeting scheduled to be held in Riyadh among the foreign ministers of Lebanon, Syria, and Saudi Arabia in the next few days. The discussions dealt with the arrangements made to hold the meeting and fix its final date.

Lebanese, U.S. Discuss Israeli Policy

Salim Asks U.S. Help

NC021235 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Dr Elie Salim, minister of foreign and expatriates affairs, today held a meeting — the second in 4 days — with U.S. Ambassador in Beirut Reginald Bartholomew. Minister Salim and the U.S. ambassador discussed the dimensions of the Israeli stances and called for a more effective U.S. move to check the Israeli practices in the south and to halt the arbitrary arrests of citizens there.

Israeli Withdrawal Statement Discussed

NC021232 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] A Lebanese diplomatic source today replied to the statement made by an Israeli security source which said that Israel does not link the withdrawal of its forces from Lebanon with a simultaneous Syrian withdrawal and that the only condition for such a withdrawal is the laying down of security

arrangements in the south that would guarantee the security and safety of Galilee residents.

The Lebanese source said in a contact with Radio Free Lebanon that the Israeli statement, if it is serious and true, is a positive deviation from the 17 May agreement and the implementation of its contents would be easier than the implementation of the agreement. The source added: Lebanon had proposed to Israel during the negotiations and particularly the opening session, what was contained in the Israeli statement, but Israel strongly rejected the proposal at that time. Whatever the reason for the change in the Israeli stand, it is considered, according to the Lebanese source, very positive. However, it does not solve the problem of the Syrian occupation except if Damascus changes its stand following these Israeli promises.

The new Israeli stance was also the subject of discussion and exploration today between Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim and U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew who visited the Bustrus Palace and met with Minister Salim for approximately 90 minutes.

Coordination on Withdrawals Sought

NC021746 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim today met for 2 hours with U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew. The discussions centered on the main current issues, particularly the question of the south.

Israeli information media have said during the past 24 hours that Israel's only condition for withdrawing from the south is the guarantee of the security of its border area. Diplomatic sources today said Lebanon has not yet been given any information regarding partial withdrawals from the south. Lebanon has asked the United States that any withdrawals be coordinated with the Lebanese Army to preclude any problems similar to those which arose in the mountain area. The sources add that the discussions with the U.S. side are in general concentrated on ensuring that the Israeli withdrawals will pave the way for the Army's takeover of those positions which Israel will evacuate.

Regarding the 17 May agreement, the diplomatic sources explain that Israel has agreed to freeze it at present. The Americans have assured Lebanon that Israel will not unilaterally annul the agreement if it is not ratified.

Reports on Israeli Policy, Situation in South

Al-Wazzan, Sit-ins Protest Actions

NC301254 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Excerpts] A general sit-in began at the mosques in Lebanon at noon in solidarity with the popular uprising in the south and in protest against the Israeli occupation and repressive actions against innocent citizens.

Ash-Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the Republic, and Ash-Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Supreme Islamic Shi'ite Council, who called for the sit-in today, staged their sit-in at Saqiyat al-Janzir Mosque [in Beirut] where the Friday prayers were held.

Israeli forces raided the house of Sidon's Mufti Muhammad Salim Jalal ad-Din at midnight yesterday under the pretext of searching for weapons. When they found no arms, the Israeli forces arrested the mufti's son Sati', who had arrived in Lebanon only a week ago. The Israeli forces released him 2 hours later after asking him to return for more interrogation today.

Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has denounced the raid of Sidon's Mufti ash-Shaykh Muhammad Salim Jalal ad-Din house by the Israeli occupation forces. He considered this action directed against all the Lebanese and not the Muslims only. Al-Wazzan contacted Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim and asked him to protest this action to international circles.

Crossing Points Reopened

NC021240 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] After a closure of 3 days during which the south was isolated from the rest of the country, Israeli forces this morning reopened the crossing points at the Al-Awwali and Bisri Bridges.

Our correspondent in the south reports that the Al-Awwali Bridge witnessed traffic congestion. Convoys of large transport vehicles and small cars, particularly those carrying goods and citrus, lined up for about 3 km. Travelers crossing to the south on foot were bitter over the closure of the main crossing point. They walked in mud for 2 km. Contrary to what has been said, not a single vehicle has been allowed to cross into the south up to this hour. Those travelling to Beirut are being subjected to a strict search after long hours of waiting.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces this morning levelled the citrus groves along both sides of the coastal road at As-Sarafand. The Israelis bulldozed a grove owned by Judge Mu'in 'Usayran and another belonging to Muhammad 'Alluli. Israel, which yesterday and today made contradictory statements over its conditions for withdrawing from the south and its demands from the Lebanese Government, closed the two bridges last Friday in the wake of escalating armed attacks against its forces and of the increasing protests by citizens in Sidon and neighboring villages.

Israelis Fired on in Sidon

NC020750 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Lebanese National Resistance fighters last night implemented a new operation against the Israeli occupation forces. Around 2130 yesterday, Lebanese National Resistance fighters attacked an occupation forces' patrol as it was passing near the Sayniq Bridge on the southern approach to Sidon. The attack, in which handgrenades and machineguns were used, lasted for over 30 minutes. During the attack the occupation forces illuminated

the sky with flares. Available information on the operation indicates a bomb exploded before the attack, that ambulances were seen hurrying to the scene, and that the occupation forces' reinforcements were brought to surround the area and comb it. Moreover, as a patrol of the occupation forces was passing in the An-Nabatiyah area, a bomb planted by the Lebanese National Resistance exploded. The enemy Israeli radio has denied that the patrol suffered any casualties. However, some reports have indicated that a number of patrol members were wounded and that the occupation forces discovered another bomb and have worked to dismantle it.

In An-Nabatiyah a landmine exploded under a vehicle belonging to Sa'd Haddad's militias wounding three of its members who were removedto hospitals by Israeli vehicles.

Israelis Fire on Houses

NC021038 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] An armored Israeli force and another infantry force last night entered Kafr Tibnit in the An-Nabatiyah District where they searched the town and opened fire on houses.

The force then attacked the home of 'Ali Jabir demanding him to hand over his two sons, accusing them of firing on Israeli roadblock personnel. When 'Ali refused, a quarrel broke out with the Israeli forces. Women and children arrived at the scene and prevented the force from entering the house. The Israelis then opened fire to intimidate the women and children and left the town.

The Israeli force returned to the town at dawn today and stormed the house of 'Ali Fadl Sirhal and arrested him without any reason.

Israeli Aircraft Attack Bhamdun

NC030752 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Israeli military aircraft have been flying over the mountain since 0930 today. Socialist sources have said that the Israeli planes attacked Palestinian and Socialist positions in Bhamdun and mansuriyat Bhamdun. The sources added that the Shepherd Hotel in Bhamdun received direct hits.

Checkpoints Along Roads to Sidon

NC030836 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Israeli forces this morning set up checkpoints along the main roads leading to Sidon. Armored personnel were seen in the Al-Qayya'ah area and two armored vehicles and a jeep were seen at Sidon's eastern access on the Sidon-Jazzin Road. Israeli personnel have been checking travelers' identity cards.

Intensive gunfire was heard last night in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp area. The reasons for the gunfire are unknown.

Security Committee Meets, Discusses Security Plan

NC311752 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] With regard to security, sources have stated that this evening Army positions — from At-Tayyunah to Mar Mikha'il — in the southern suburb of Beirut were fired on.

Earlier today the Security Arrangements Committee met with all members present. The committee continued its discussion and study of the integrated security plan now in its final phases. The committee took note that the parties represented on the committee had sent a written request to the International Red Cross Committee to undertake its task of preparing the measures required for the release of all the abducted.

Disengagement Plan Vote Possible

NC311321 Paris AFP in English 1249 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Beirut, Dec 31 (AFP) — Talks between government representatives and delegates from the country's chief warring factions have made some progress this week, it appeared. All parties may meet next week in Damascus, according to press accounts, and vote on a peace plan calling for a disengagement of all forces from the mountains and the creation of buffer zones overseen by neutral observers.

Under the proposal, fighters from the Amal Moslem militia would also pull back in Beirut's southern suburbs, to be replaced by Lebanese police. But Amal leader Nabih Birri yesterday asked that recent reinforcements to Lebaense Army positions around southern Beirut be withdrawn before the plan comes into effect, reliable sources said here.

Another pessimistic note was sounded today by Walid Junblatt, head of the militant Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), which is a chief protagonist in the pacification debate. In an interview in the *AS-SAFIR* daily newspaper, Mr Junblatt said a solution to Lebanon's problems, as envisaged through the country's all-faction National Reconciliation Congress, seemed "very far, if not to say impossible."

The Lebanese Government and its factional supporters were at fault for refusing to make reforms and for stubbornly defending their own privileges, Mr Junblatt charged. He said that the anti-government forces, which includes the PSP, sought to make radical changes in Lebanon's political structure, and strengthen the country's Arab identity.

Political, Military Contacts Continue

NC020734 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] At 0715 today artillery exchanges took place between Ar-Rumaylah and Wadi az-Zaynah on the one side and the al-Wardaniyah Hills and Siblin on the other. At approximately 0610 today a rocket was fired from the Shatila-Hurj Bayrut area at As-Sanawbar Palace. The rocket missed it and hit the palace's wall.

Contacts are continuing today on the political and military level to draw up a final formula for a comprehensive security plan to include the southern suburb and the mountain. Meanwhile, it was reported that the Lebanese Army will thin out its presence in the suburb after the security situation stabilizes in the area.

Security Plan in Final Stages

NC030738 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Security reports say that at approximately 0100 today two explosive devices went off in the Al-Wastani Quarter in Sidon causing property damage to nearby buildings and parked cars. The two devices were planted against a supermarket and an arcade belonging to the sons of Mahmud al-Halabi.

No other incidents have been reported. Calm prevails in Beirut's southern suburn and in the mountain. A comprehensive security plan is expected to be declared. The plan will restore calm and stability as well as the legitimate authority in these areas. The plan is in the final stages and will be declared soon after Walid Junblatt finally endorses it.

Israeli Hospital Confirms Haddad Hospitalization

NC011730 Paris AFP in English 1721 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Jerusalem, Jan 1 (AFP) — Israeli-backed Lebanese dissident Major Sa'd Haddad today entered a hospital in Haifa, northern Israel, a hospital spokesman said. He has been admitted for a series of routine tests, the spokesman said.

Major Haddad was three months ago forced to take a prolonged rest because of general fatigue. At the time he delegated some of his power to his deputy, Lieutenant Kamal Barakat.

Commander Haddad's 3,000-strong militia control 14 bases in southern Lebanon.

AN-NAHAR on Al-Musawi's Statement on Movement

NC301446 Beirut AN-NAHAR in Arabic 29 Dec 83 p 4

[Text] Husayn al-Musawi, the man behind the "Islamic Amal" Movement, has stated that "nothing threatens the imperialist interests in the world except Islamic resurgence, namely, the Muslims' revolutionary activity under the flag of the Islamic revolution led by Imam Khomeyni."

In a dialogue held with him by the "international news agency" [wakalat al-anba' ad-duwaliyah], he said: "We in Lebanon are part of this line and loyal to it. They call us terrorists. We say, as we have previously said, that if terrorism means defense of religion and dignity and sanctities, we not only insist on being called terrorists but insist on being terrorists.

Our behavior will absolutely not be affected by those rumors and accusations cooked up in the kitchens of U.S. and Zionist intelligence services and their satellites. Therefore, we are continuing our march against Israel, the United States, and their satellites until liberation and victory and until the banner of "there is no God but Allah" rises over every inch of our sacred region, God willing."

On the government's decision to sever diplomatic relations with Iran, he said: "We, as Muslims, will never acquiesce or submit to the presence of embassies of imperialist, invading, greedy states aggressing on our religion and presence in Beirut while our relations with Islamic states are broken. This will never happen as long as we exist. It will happen when we all vanish. God willing, victory will be for the Muslims."

He said that "the Imam 'Ali Ibn abu Talib barracks (formerly Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks) is one of several points spreading everywhere [as published] which belong to the mojahedin and not terrorists."

He explained that Israeli shelling of the barracks "destroyed some walls and wounded six or seven people, who are preparing to once again return to the trenches. However, if Israel or the United States, or France strikes, our fighting against them will be fiercer."

Answering a question, he said: "We possess a simple weapon. Our greatest weapon is 'allah akbar.' Our other brother mujahedin in Lebanon are responsible for using the weapons they possess. We will fight with all we own. We will respond with all means and everywhere as long as Israel and the United States engage in aggression against us."

RFL Reports Unification Leader Back in Tripoli

NC021802 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Our correspondent in the north has reported that Hashim Minqarah, leader of the Unification Movement in Al-Mina, Tripoli, was seen yesterday in Tripoli. Minqarah had left the city along with 120 Lebanese belonging to the Unification Movement and 600 Syrians belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood during the process of evacuating 'Arafat and his gunmen for fear of Syrian reprisal against them.

UAE Paper Interviews Lebanese Shi'ite Leader

GF021048 Doha QNA in Arabic 0750 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Jan (QNA) — Lebanese Amal Movement leader Nabih Barri has asserted that the civil resistance to the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon will continue until all of southern Lebanon is liberated from this perfidiuos occupation.

In a statement to the UAE newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* published today, he denied any contacts between the Amal Movement and Israel. He said: We refuse to meet with any Israeli official since we regard Israel an absolute evil and our national duty to resist it. We will continue to raise our weapons until all of southern Lebanon has been liberated from Israeli occupation.

In his statement, Barri warned the United States against even considering military aggression on the southern suburb [of

Beirut], indicating that the suburb will be a cemetery for any aggressor. He also explained the alliance with Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt, saying that any aggression by U.S. Marines against the Ash-Shuf region or the city of 'Alayh will be regarded an aggression against the southern district of Beirut and the Amal Movement. He reiterated his call for building the Lebanese homeland into a place where justice and equality prevail, and expressed the hope that the Geneva followup conference will be successful and will put an end to the Lebanese disaster.

Reportage on Jackson Visit, Pilot's Release

Jackson Meets With Khaddam

JN311256 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received today Senator [as heard] Reverend Jesse Jackson, a candidate for the U.S. presidential elections, and his delegation. During the meeting, a discussion of the current situation in Lebanon and the region took place.

Jackson Meets With Pilot

JN311846 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1805 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 31 Dec (SANA) — The Reverend Jesse Jackson, one of the U.S. presidential candidates, and his delegation met in Damascus today with the captured U.S. pilot Goodman in the presence of a large number of Arab and foreign news agency correspondents and radio and television reporters accredited in Damascus.

At the beginning of the meeting, the pilot expressed deep gratitude to the Syrian authorities for their good treatment. He said that he is enjoying good health and that the authorities have been extending to him all the requirements for living, adding that he was surprised by the good treatment the Syrians mete out to their POW's. He said that he is living in a large room equipped with the means of easy life and that he is being well treated by all those who surround him.

The prisoner also said that he met with the Red Cross representative 15 days ago and with the U.S. ambassador on Christmas night. The ambassador told him that his government was doing its utmost to have him released and returned home. He also handed him a number of letters from his family and friends. Answering a question on the manner in which he was taken prisoner, the pilot said: I felt a great tremor in the plane and I bailed out. I later found myself surrounded by a group of armed men. I subsequently learned that they were Syrians.

Jackson handed him a letter from his mother and another from one of his friends.

Television Shows Jackson Meeting

JN312013 [Editorial Report] Damascus Television Service in Arabic in its 1830 GMT newscast on 31 December broadcast a recorded 90-second film report showing Jesse Jackson and his delegation visiting captured U.S. pilot Robert Goodman. No audio is heard, but the film is accompanied by an announcer's report on the visit which is identical with the SANA report above. The announcer does not disclose the place of the meeting. The film shows Jackson, the U.S. delegation members, and reporters standing around Goodman with cameramen taking pictures. Medium and closeup shots show Goodman speaking to reporters, holding a number of letters, rubbing his hands together, and exchanging looks and a smile with Jackson.

Trusts Minister Receives Jackson

JN010655 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus Religious Trusts Minister Dr Muhammad Muhammad al-Khatib this evening received in his office the Reverend Jesse Jackson and the members of the Islamic and Christian delegation and the press mission accompanying him. The 2-hour meeting was attended by a large number of ulema, Islamic men of religion, the spiritual leaders of the various Christian communities in the country, and correspondents of Arab and world newspapers and news agencies.

The religious trusts minister and the Reverend Jackson held an expanded, cordial, religious meeting with the participation of their emminences the ulema, the Christian men of religion, and the members of the accompanying delegation. After introductions by the members of both sides, the Reverend Jackson spoke. He said he was pleased to meet with Islamic and Christian men of religion on New Year's Eve. He also explained that his visit to Syria falls within his efforts for peace and justice. He said that he is satisfied with the good treatment which captured U.S. pilot Goodman is getting at the hands of the Syrians. Afterward, everyone stook up, held hands, and performed joint Islamic-Christian prayers.

The religious trusts minister then spoke. He pointed out the importance of this religious and humanitarian meeting, which stems from the important spiritual values preached by all prophets and heavenly religions. He touched on the current political events in the region. He condemned U.S. policy and held the Reagan administration responsible for the consequences of this policy and for condescending to Zionist Israeli racism in its policy of oppression against peoples. He also condemned the massing of U.S. fleets off the Lebanese shores and the aggressive U.S. presence in Lebanon and the region.

The Reverend Jackson thanked the minister for the arrangements of the visit and the warm reception. He then expressed his disapproval of the U.S. Administration's policy whether in Lebanon and the Arab region, or in Nicaragua, Grenada, and America. He said: We cannot justify the presence of U.S. forces in Lebanon and we do not agree with the provocative U.S. air sorties or the deployment of nuclear missiles in Europe.

Release Tied to Flights

JN010709 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Jesse Jackson, the black Democratic Party candidate for the U.S. presidency who is currently visiting Damascus, told SANA after his meeting with Syrian religious trusts minister that he cannot justify the presence of the U.S. forces in Lebanon and that he does not approve of U.S. reconnaissance flights over Lebanon or the deployment of U.S. nuclear missiles in Europe. Jesse Jackson announced yesterday, after his meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, that Damascus attaches the question of the release of the captured U.S. pilot Robert Goodman to the suspension of U.S. reconnaissance flights

over Syrian positions. Jesse Jackson and the members of his delegation visited the captured pilot and said that the circumstances of his detention are excellent. Jackson handed the pilot letters from the members of his family. Jesse Jackson, who is visiting Damascus in response to an official invitation, hopes to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad.

Jackson on Marine Withdrawal

JN012020 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus — The Reverend Jesse Jackson, a candidate for the U.S. presidency, has announced that the U.S. Marines operating within the Multinational Force must withdraw and be replaced by UN or neutral forces. He added that these forces have lost their quality as a neutral force and their presence is no longer desired. In a news conference in the Sheraton Hotel in Damascus this afternoon, Jackson said: The U.S. military involvement in Lebanon will lead the United States toward an unknown war against humanitarian objectives as well as against our national interest and the humanitarian interests of all peoples.

Al-Asad Receives Jackson

JN021719 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] At 1300 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received the Reverend Jesse Jackson, chairman of the Council for the Defense of Civil Rights in the United States and a candidate for the U.S. Democratic Party nomination, and his delegation which comprises Howard, (Mandleson), and Porter. Talks dealt with the situation in the region, U.S.-Syrian relations, and the U.S. policy in Lebanon and the Middle East. The Reverend Jackson expressed his views on the policy of President Ronald Reagan's administration. He criticized U.S. Middle East policy which adopts the stand of only one side and ignores the stand of the other side which represents 150 million people.

The Reverend Jackson considers the current U.S. Administration's policy in this region and other world regions, including Nicaragua, Grenada, and South Africa, as harmful to the real interests of the U.S. people. He said: History teaches us that power and omnipotence are not always right, and that it is only right which gives power. He added: We believe that the current U.S. Administration's policy lacks rationality to such an extent that it is difficult for it to approve of any rational action. He said that he objects to the U.S. forces' presence in Lebanon and to the U.S. aircraft's reconnaissance flights over the Syrian forces' positions. He added: There is no support at all for these actions in the Congress and among the U.S. public.

The president welcomed the Reverend Jackson on the occasion of his second visit to Syria. The president said: The gun cannot uphold an unethical and false issue, nor can the gun make the United States win respect. Historical facts prove that it is difficult and even impossible to continuously vanquish a people. We in Syria are convinced that neither the United States nor any other world power can impose its will on us, because we are determined to defend ourselves and because our people possess the will and means by which they can defend their homeland.

The president added that when peoples make up their mind to defend their independence, territorial sanctity, and will, they will be able to defend themselves and resist the aggressor successfully. The president said that guns are not the right way to enter into a dialogue with Syria nor the means by which the United States can subjugate this region.

The president criticized the U.S. Administration's policy and said: The United States took part in the adoption of the decision on Israel's invasion of Lebanon. The United States was not content with this participation. It brought its fleet to our shores and tried to impose the 17 May 1983 agreement by force. All this affirms that there is no U.S. policy toward this region, but that there is an Israeli decision implemented by the U.S. Administration.

During the meeting, the Reverend Jackson raised the subject of the U.S. pilot Robert Goodman, who was captured by the Syrian forces. He appealed to the president in the name of mercy, humanity, and tolerance — and not in the name of justice — to release him so that he can return to his family. The president promised that this subject will be studied by the competent Syrian quarters.

At the end of the meeting, the Reverend Jackson and the delegation members thanked the president for receiving them and hoped that constructive dialogue with Syria will continue. Jackson expressed in his name and on behalf of his delegation his gratitude to the president for the warm welcome and the attention with which the president listened regarding their viewpoint on the subjects discussed. In a statement to journalists, Jackson described his meeting with the president as warm and fruitful. He added that during this meeting opinions and viewpoints were exchanged

Official Statement on Release

JN031029 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Damascus — An official source has stated the following:

In response to the humanitarian appeal that was made by the Reverend Jesse Jackson to President Hafiz al-Asad, and the U.S. Government's requests for releasing the captured U.S. pilot Lieutenant Goodman, and as a contribution from Syria toward creating circumstances conducive to withdrawing the U.S. forces from Lebanon, the Syrian Government has decided to release the captured pilot. The Syrian Government hopes that the U.S. Government will take the necessary measures to end its military involvement in Lebanon — an involvement which has caused pain to Lebanon, the region, as well as the the American people, and which further complicated the situation both in Lebanon and the entire region. At the same time, the Syrian Government affirms that Syria's Armed forces will firmly confront all the aggressive and provocative acts to which it may be exposed.

Khaddam Hands Over Pilot

JN031127 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] At 1000 today, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received the Reverend Jesse Jackson, a candidate for the U.S. presidency. At the end of the meeting, detained U.S. pilot Goodman was handed over to the Reverend Jackson in the presence of the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Jackson Press Conference

JN031304 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] The Reverend Jesse Jackson, leader of civil rights in the United States and a candidate for the U.S. presidency, has expressed deep thanks to President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian Government for the kind gesture of releasing the detained U.S. pilot Robert Goodman. This came at a press conference Jackson and his accompanying delegation held at the Sheraton Hotel in the presence of the U.S. ambassador in Damascus and a large number of Arab and foreign correspondents in Damascus. Jackson said: We appreciate this humanitarian action which will enable Goodman to return to his family and homeland. He said that this would alleviate tension between the United States and Syria and increase the growing feelings in the United States toward the Syrian Arab people and President al-Asad. He added: We hope that this will be a good factor and will signal an improvement in the relations between the two countries, and an end to the U.S. military involvement in Lebanon.

Spokesman on Israeli Raids on Lebanese Areas

JN031129 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus — A military spokesman has stated the following:

At 0935 today, 3 January 1984, Israeli enemy planes raided Lebanese Nationalist Forces' positions that are outside the area where our forces are stationed. A formation of Israeli planes bombed two Lebanese Nationalist positions in Bhamdun injuring four civilians. Our air defense means near the area confronted the enemy planes and forced them to return toward the occupied territory.

Khaddam Reaffirms Stand on Israel-Lebanon Pact

JN301300 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has reaffirmed Syria's insistence on canceling the Israeli- Lebanese agreement. In a statement to be published in the Lebanese magazine *ASH-SHIRA'* tomorrow, Khaddam asserted that Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil's visit to Damascus is contingent upon the Syrian-Lebanese-Saudi talks which will be resumed within the first 10 days of next month. Khaddam described the Syrian-U.S. contacts as normal. He said that U.S. presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld will visit Damascus once again.

Khaddam Says U.S.-Israeli 'Aggression' Expected

JN022232 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus — 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized that Syria will not yield to Zionist or other extortion. He added that we as an Arab nation on the one hand, and as Syrians and Lebanese on the other, are waging a battle against the Zionist occupation and U.S. hegemony. In an interview he granted to the Lebanese magazine *ASH-SHIRA'*, published today, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said that the Geneva Conference on the Lebanese National Dialogue did not talk about freezing the 17 May agreement, but about getting rid of it, as this serves the supreme interests of the Arab nation, including the Lebanese people. This, he said, has been expressed by the majority of the Geneva conference participants.

Khaddam stressed that the past and future talks between Lebanon and Syria are aimed at reaching a unified viewpoint that contributes to the resumption of the National Dialogue Conference and preserves Lebanon's independence, unity, and sovereignty. This includes finding a method to get rid of the 17 May agreement.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that the Arab-Zionist conflict is a comprehensive and continuous conflict and that Syria will not interfere and has no right to interfere in preventing the Lebanese and Palestinian resistance from confronting the Israeli enemy. He said that Syria expects a U.S.-Israeli aggression, not because of the presence of the Palestinian opposition in Damascus, but because of the nature of the current conflict in the region between us and the Israeli enemy and its U.S. partner. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam added that the United States expressed its policy in the region through the recent strategic agreement it concluded with the Zionist enemy. Within the framework of this policy, he said, we expect more active U.S. military and political moves. Naturally, we are also in the process of preparing to legitimately defend ourselves and confront such an eventuality.

More on Khaddam's Interview

JN030715 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Damascus — In an interview granted to the Lebanese magazine *ASH-SHIRA'*, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized that Syria will not yield to Zionist or other extortion. He added that we as an Arab nation on the one hand, and as Syrian and Lebanese on the other, are waging a battle against the Zionist occupation and U.S. hegemony.

In reply to a question, Khaddam stressed that we in Syria are concerned about the PLO's unity and objectives, and the PNC resolutions that are hostile to imperialism and Zionism. He

added: We in Syria are not waging a battle against 'Arafat, but our battle is against Israel and those who support it. He said that he who makes the first step toward dissension puts himself in the circle of those who are hostile to the Palestinian people and the pan-Arab struggle against Israel, and he who puts himself in this circle places himself in the circle that is hostile to us. Khaddam stressed that no other Arab country is like Syria, which has supported and is extending real support for the Palestinian people, and sustaining losses and damages for the sake of the Palestinian question. Khaddam stressed that Syria's relations with the United States, which is leading a campaign against us, cannot be the same as the relations with the friendly USSR which supports us.

Monte Carlo Reports on Talas AP Interview

JN301837 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1724 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Dispatch by Louis Faris, Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus; date not specified —recorded]

[Text] In an interview with AP, Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas said that Syria and Lebanon are one nation and that Syria will not return the detained U.S. pilot Robert Goodman before the state of war ends between it and the United States. He added: Syria is not attacking the United States. We are not the enemies of the United States. On the contrary, it is the United States that is attacking us.

Gen Talas admitted that President Hafiz al-Asad was not suffering from appendicitis when he was admitted to the hospital last month, but from an arterial disease that resulted in fatigue. He said that the president has now fully recovered from this disease, and that there is no need for surgery or drugs — only rest. Gen Talas emphasized that President al-Asad did not suffer a heart attack. He said: We talked about appendicitis at the time because we were faced with a political problem. We expected President Amin al-Jumayyil to arrive, and we had no other convincing way of explaining to the Lebanese that President al-Asad was suffering from fatigue.

Gen Talas said: President al-Asad was used to working 18 hours a day. That was possible when he was a young man. Now, however, he is 56 years old. We and all of his aides are trying to reorganize his time so as to not tire him with unimportant meetings and talks.

Gen Talas affirmed that Syrian SAM-7 missiles shot down the two F-14 U.S. planes on 20 November. He said that the American announcement that the two planes fell in the sea after colliding in mid-air was not correct. He said: The two planes circled over our positions, and we fired SAM-7 missiles at them. Since the planes are of a very sophisticated type, they managed to sustain their hits until they fell in the sea. [sentence as heard]

Asked about U.S. intelligence and other reports linking the Iranian Revolutionary Guards and their supporters in Al-Biqa' with the blowing up of the U.S. Marine and French headquarters in Beirut, Gen Talas denied any connection between these people and the two explosions. He said that the Beirut headquarters of the U.S. Marine and French units were attacked by Lebanese national resistance men. He said that there is no doubt they were Shi'ite citizens from southern Lebanon, and their identities will be revealed when the war is over. He added: These men did not receive any training, and they rejected the assistance of any Arab state or Palestinian side. They insist on remaining 100 percent Lebanese, because they want history to proudly say that they alone carried out the operation. Gen Talas said that the group planning and carrying out the explosions is a small closely-knit group and that nobody knows anything about it.

Speaking again about the U.S. pilot, Gen Talas said that he will be released when the U.S. forces withdraw from Lebanon. He said: I can say that when the U.S. ships sail away from our shores, this detained pilot will arrive in the United States before those ships.

Asked to explain his statement that Syria and Lebanon are one nation, and asked whether this means that Syria has the right to make decisions for Lebanon, Gen Talas said: We do not assume this right. I said one nation only from the social viewpoint. During the French mandate, we were one country with one currency. There were no borders between us throughout the 25 years of the French mandate. How can there be any difference between us after the mandate? Actually, the decisions that are made in the interest of Lebanon are practical decisions, in Syria's view. But decisions that the Lebanese Government makes under Israeli occupation and under the Israeli boot cannot be in the interest of either Syria or Lebanon.

Commentary on Reagan's New Year Statement

JN021542 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1228 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: In his message to the American people on the new year, President Reagan continued his statements and talks about the Lebanese situation and the U.S. forces in Lebanon. While an increasing number of U.S. politicans and candidates for the presidency are calling for withdrawing the U.S forces from Lebanon, Reagan, who is responsible for the presence of these forces, and for their deviation from their mission, tried to justify this presence and its continuation by saying that progress has been achieved in Lebanon, and that this progress was impossible without the presence of the U.S. Marines in Lebanon.

The many statements made by President Reagan on Lebanon and the U.S. forces there indicates the great deal of worry the Reagan administration has regarding its military involvement in Lebanon, and the appearance of possibilities that this involvement may exacerbate until it becomes a Middle East war similar to that of Vietnam. Although the U.S. Administration is trying to beautify U.S. military involvement by talking about its help in achieving peace, its help to the Lebanese Government and people in evacuating the non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon, and by talking about similar justifications, the real reason for U.S. involvement in Lebanon begins to emerge in U.S. public opinion and among U.S. politicians.

Reverend Jesse Jackson, a candidate for the U.S. presidency, made a statement to the U.S. and world press that the U.S. Government has entered an undeclared war against Syria. U.S. Senator Tower will leave Washington for the Middle East today to see if there is a need for the U.S. forces in Lebanon. Walter Mondale, a candidate for the U.S. presidency, has called for the withdrawal of the U.S. forces from Lebanon within 45 days.

After the long presence of the U.S. forces in Lebanon, any neutral observer can discover the facts in light of the situation. one of these facts is that the U.S. forces have not helped to expel the Israel invasion forces from Lebanon, nor protected the civilians in Beirut, where the Sabra and Shatila masscres occurred. The U.S. forces also did not help in establishing peace and security, nor help the local government in spreading its authority in the Lebanese territories. The U.S. military interference against the Lebanese nationalist forces in fact harmed the Lebanese Government, prevented it from spreading its authority in the Lebanese territories, and placed obstacles to Lebanese national accord.

Instead of helping the Lebanese Government to enhance security and try to attain peace, the U.S. forces became needful of security and protection, despite all the U.S. aircraft carriers and warships in the east Mediterranean.

The U.S. forces dispatched to Lebanon have failed in achieving their declared mission, but they succeeded in achieving its real and undeclared mission; namely, to help Israel and its invasion forces, and to put pressure on the Lebanese Government to turn it into a lackey of U.S. policy which is aimed against Syria, the Arabs, and the Palestine cause. The statements made by Italian President Pertini — the president of a country which is an ally of the United States and a participant in the Multinational Force in Lebanon — are the best objective assessment of the U.S. forces' action in Lebanon. President Pertini said that these forces were sent to Lebanon not to achieve peace, but to help Israel.

When Syria asks for the withdrawal of the U.S. forces from Lebanon, in addition to the Israeli invasion forces, it raises a necessary and urgent demand that will serve the peace issue in the Middle East, the world and Lebanon's national interests, and set up the necessary conditions to restore Lebanese sovereignty over all the Lebanese territories. It it doubtless that the presence of the U.S. forces, in light of current U.S. policy, constitutes a permanent threat to peace in the Middle East and Lebanon and an obstacle to the achievement of a Lebanese settlement that will respond to national Lebanese interests and be accepted by the Lebanese Nationalist Forces.

If the Reagan administration insists on continuing the undeclared war in Lebanon against the Lebanese Nationalist Forces and the Syrian forces there, it will have complete responsibility for all the consequences whose repercussions may not be confined to the region. Syria has always asserted that it does not seek war with the United States. However if Syria is exposed to any aggression from any source, it will defend itself with force and efficiency. Syria will not spare any required means or moves to pay the aggressor back twofold, and to hit it in a manner that will hurt and affect its interests and existence in the region.

TISHRIN Raps Reagan's New Year's Eve Remarks

JN020800 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Jan 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Imposed Reagan Peace," *TISHRIN* writes: President Reagan has called on the American people to pray for the U.S. soldiers whom he sent to Lebanon and who, as he put it, are risking their lives for the sake of peace in Lebanon. In a message to the American people on the occasion of the new year, Reagan said that the progress realized in Lebanon would not have been achieved without the presence of the U.S. and Multinational Forces there. Observers of Reagan's Middle East policy and his administration's proposals for a settlement in the region are perfectly aware of Reagan's wish to impose U.S. hegemony on this troubled region in the world. The peace that Reagan is seeking is the peace of the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance — a peace that does not go beyond his own peace plan or the Camp David agreements.

TISHRIN adds: Therefore, President Reagan wants to establish peace in the region according to his administration's concept, provided this peace realizes further gains for Israel at the expense of the Arab people and territory and promotes imperialist hegemony. This argument is supported by the signing of the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement, which harbors hostile intentions against the Arab nation, and by sending U.S. forces and aircraft carriers to attack Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces. *TISHRIN* further adds: The bombing and shelling of some of our forces' positions in Lebanon by U.S. aircraft and ships are practical proof of President Reagan's determination to abort the peace efforts in Lebanon and the region, claiming that Syria is the insurmountable obstacle to the U.S.-Israeli hegemony plots in the region.

However, Reagan ignores the fact that the peace that Syria and the peoples in the region are seeking is a just peace with two basic conditions; namely, Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the realization of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. Without these two conditions, no peace can be realized.

The paper says: We would like to remind President Reagan that Syria is not interested in military confrontation with the United States unless this confrontation is imposed on it. In this event, Syria will be a match, knowing how to defend itself, its territory, and the pride and dignity of the Arabs. If Reagan wants to improve the atmosphere and relations with Syria, he should not ask Syria to relinquish its firm, principled stands which it has reiterated several times. Reagan should limit his administration's support for Israel, withdraw his fleets, stop his aggression and threats, and participate in a constructive manner with the world community in its efforts to establish a just solution for the dispute in the region within the UN resolutions and those of the international community. Then, our Arab masses and the peoples of the world would join the American people in their prayers to realize the cherished peace which President Reagan does not care about, due to his dire need to win Jewish votes in his current battle to remain in the White House.

TISHRIN: U.S.-Syrian Relations 'Difficult, Bitter'
JN030736 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 Jan 84

[From the press review]

[Text] In its "Behind the News" column, *TISHRIN* says: Damascus has listened at length and with understanding to Reverend Jackson's remarks. He is one of the U.S. leaders opposed to President Reagan's policy in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world, and he is also a U.S. presidential candidate on behalf of the Democrats. Syria wants to preserve its friendship with the American people who, through their institutions, oppose the deviation of the Reagan policy which is detrimental to the real interests of the American people and which relies on might, rather than right, as a weapon and a means to realize its objectives. This policy is doomed to failure because right alone grants might.

The Reverend Jackson is not the only U.S. leader opposed to the presence of the U.S. forces in Lebanon and U.S. flights over the Syrian guns and bitterly opposed to irrational U.S. global policy. Hence Syria's understanding and welcome of Jackson's wishes and remarks. However, when issues are discussed between states or governments, through an ambassador or an envoy, facts and figures speak for themselves, particularly since our dealings with the U.S. Administration have become difficult, bitter, and full of errors that serve only the ambitions of Israel,which is effectively using U.S. policy to further its aims.

Damascus Radio Comments on U.S. Policy in Region
JN311550 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1225 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, there are more and more voices in the United States calling for the withdrawal of the U.S. Marines from Lebanon, since these forces have deviated from the nature of the task that was announced at the beginning, have become involved in Lebanese domestic conficts, and have carried out provocations against Syria. The U.S. concern over the consequences of the Reagan administration's policy in Lebanon is understood, because the U.S. public opinion which recalls the U.S. war in Vietnam and the resulting political and military defeat of the United States, the heavy losses in life and equipment, and the deterioration of the U.S. reputation in the world, is a public opinion that is concerned over the fact that the military involvment in Lebanon could lead to an involvement in a military conflict that would lead to more losses in life and eventually lead to a military and political defeat of the United States. However, it seems that President Reagan does not consider U.S. public opinion; neither is he interested in the statements of congressmen and the advice of many experienced U.S. officials who have suffered. Thus, he is making many open statements that stress his insistence on keeping the U.S. forces in Lebanon despite the domestic and foreign criticism regarding the presence of this force. President Reagan's stand might be based on election considerations that aim at gaining the support of the Zionist lobby in the coming presidential elections. However, this stand does not serve the real national U.S. interests, the Lebanese interests, and security, stability, and peace in the Middle East.

To link U.S. policy with the regional expansionist Israeli policy, in order to use Israel and its war machine to achieve the U.S. objectives in the region, is a matter which deprives the United States of the right to be among the Arabs' possible friends and refutes the U.S. Administration's claims of being able to play a neutral and honest role in the Middle East, or the role of the mediator and the judge. Moreover, to link the U.S. policy with Shamir's policy in Lebanon and the region in general must eventually threaten the U.S. interests in region. Anyone in the United States who doubts this fact must review the history of the traditional colonialist states in the region, how their influence diminished, and their interests collapsed. Moreover, he must recall how the British and French interests collapsed after the tripartite aggression against Egypt in 1956.

The Reaganist insistence on keeping the U.S. forces in Lebanon within the framework of the strategic cooperation with Israel and coordination between the Israeli and U.S. objectives that are hostile to the Arabs threatens peace in the region and creates insurmountable obstacles to any positive and fruitful dialogue between the Arabs and the United States.

President Receives Moroccan Minister 30 Dec
JN301548 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Mansouri Benali, Moroccan minister of transporation and King Hassan II's special envoy, in Damascus at 1215 today. During the meeting, the president received a written message from King Hassan II containing an invitation for the president to attend the fourth Islamic summit conference scheduled to be held in Casablanca. His excellency the president welcomed the scheduled summit conference, and said: Syria will be represented at that conference and will contribute to its success.

Moroccan Envoy Leaves Damascus
JN311938 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Mansouri Benali, Moroccan minister of transportation and King Hassan II's special envoy, left Damascus this evening following a 3-day visit to Syria. During this visit, the Moroccan minister delivered a written message to President Hafiz al-Asad from King Hassan II.

IDF Spokesman Announces 3 Jan Air Force Attack

TA030832 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0829 GMT 3 Jan 83

["IDF Spokesman's Announcement" — ITIM headline]

[Text] Air Force planes this morning attacked a terrorist base in Bhamdun which is along the Beirut-Damascus highway. All our aircraft returned safely to their base. Our pilots reported direct hits on the targets. Here are additional details: The bases were located in two structures inside Bhamdun. It was known that following the IDF withdrawal from the Ash-Shuf area, terrorists — primarily from the Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] faction — took up positions in that area.

Shamir Reported Flexible on Syrian Withdrawal

TA021831 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told visiting U.S. congressmen that Israel no longer insists on a simultaneous withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon. Congressman Barney Frank, Democrat from Massachusets, told reporter David Essing that this flexibility would be welcomed by the United States:

[Begin recording] [Frank] What the prime minister said was that the major concern is the one, I think, people in America believe to be the most legitimate, which is security for Galilee. And he indicated that with regard to Syrian withdrawal they are prepared to discuss that. And, they are prepared — if you had a situation where there were Lebanese Forces capable of guaranteeing security, that would be the main condition for Israel to withdraw. And the question of residual Syrian presence, as well as a residue of Israeli presence — Those issues would be secondary issues. The distinct impression I get is those he felt could be worked out by the parties if the primary purpose of guaranteeing security for Galilee could be provided by the Lebanese Army.

[Essing] In other words, Israel is not insisting that the Syrians leave at the same time as the Israeli forces pull out of Lebanon?

[Frank] Not at exactly the same minute, and not necessarily entirely. As we know, in the May 17 agreement Israel asked for and got the right to do some patrolling.

[Essing] Did Prime Minister Shamir indicate what might happen in Lebanon if the Marines are pulled out?

[Frank] The Marines in Beirut?

[Essing] Yes.

[Frank] No. We didn't touch on that in any detail. I know that Israeli Government officials have been very explicit in the United States and elsewhere that they have not asked that U.S. Marines be sent to Beirut; that U.S. Marines are not there to protect Israel. You know, Israel has always said that it will protect itself, and the IDF is Israel's line of defense. I think that Israeli officials do believe — and Prime Minister Shamir said this in Washington in a meeting I was at — that it would be a problem for the Al-Jumayyil government if the Marines were to be pulled out. But, he was very clear that that was not an Israeli problem. [end recording]

Shamir Rejects UNIFIL Role

TA030849 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Jan 84 pp 1, 2

[Report by diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir seemed to dismiss the possibility yesterday of UNIFIL playing a peace-keeping role in south Lebanon. In a lengthy conversation over lunch with visiting French ex-President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, the prime minister said that UNIFIL did not do much before the June 1982 war, and has done nothing since then.

Former Premier Yitzhaq Rabin recently proposed that the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon man a buffer-zone between the Al-Awwali and Az-Zahrani rivers. Speaking to *THE JERUSALEM POST*, Rabin said UNIFIL's role before the war had been maligned in Israel. It had prevented nearly all infiltration attempts through its area of control, he said.

Rabin said a role for UNIFIL in the future, bolstered by a local (mainly Shi'ite) militia force in the south supported by Israel, could enable the IDF to ensure the security of the border region without actually occupying south Lebanon.

On Sunday, a senior defence source in Jerusalem rejected Rabin's proposal on the grounds that the Soviets and other inimical states at the UN would not countenance a redefinition of UNIFIL's mandate if this were desired by Israel.

Israeli sources said the Shamir-Giscard meeting went "very well. The two of them really hit it off."

The sources noted Giscard's intense interest and impressive expertise in Middle Eastern matters. They said the two-hour conversation covered in depth all the main issues of regional politics — Lebanon, the peace process, the state of the PLO, Israeli-Egyptian relations and the American role in the area.

Giscard is in Israel on a two-week private visit. He called on President Herzog at Bet Hanasi [president's residence] yesterday and was briefed for over an hour on the situation in Lebanon, the Palestinian issue and Israeli policy.

Giscard, en route to Jordan, and Herzog chatted in English in the president's office.

MAPAM Suspends Knesset Alignment Membership

TA021121 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] We have just heard that MAPAM has suspended its membership with Labor. Leslie Susser has just come into the studio, and standing by in the Knesset is Jack Katzenell:

[Susser] Jack, can you tell us what the issue was over which the partnership was finally suspended?

[Katzenell] Well, first of all I should stress that it is not final yet. MAPAM has suspended its membership in the Labor Alignment here in the Knesset, specifically in the Knesset. In other words, the Alignment, the alliance between MAPAM and the Labor Party, still exists in the other institutions, like the Histadrut and outside the Knesset. However, here in the Knesset it is suspended, and the issue was the expulsion of MAPAM Knesset Member Imri Ron from the Knesset Finance Committee. If you recall, in the past week there has been a controversy in the Finance Committee about the salaries of Cabinet ministers and other senior officials. Now, Imri Ron felt very strongly that Cabinet ministers ought to show an example and cut their salaries in these difficult times. But, as you know, the Alignment came to an agreement with the Likud over this, and it was decided that the Cabinet ministers' salaries would not be cut, and the Alignment caucus chairman Moshe Shahal, of course having made his deal, enforced it, and when Imri Ron voted against this in the Finance Committee, Shahal ruled that Ron must be expelled from the Finance Committee and replaced by somebody else from the Alignment. MAPAM objects to this very very strongly, and today they have said: We are out of the Alignment in the Knesset. Of course, we don't know how final this is, and we don't know how long it will last. Perhaps by this evening there may even be a solution.

[Susser] Jack, is there any indication in what you have been saying whether this is just a flexing of MAPAM muscle, or are they serious, and is the split even irreversible at this stage?

[Katzenell] I don't think it is irreversible. I cannot imagine that MAPAM at this particular time would want to be out of the Alignment on a permanent basis, but I think they do feel very strongly about the way in which Imri Ron was treated. After all, they said it was a matter of principle; and it is not only MAPAM — quite a lot of people believe that the Cabinet ministers' salaries ought to be cut. And Ron was acting on this principle; and they feel that he was very shabbily treated by Moshe Shahal, and by the majority in the Labor Alignment. And they feel that unless some kind of redress is given, they will have to at least do what they have done, which is to suspend their membership in the Alignment until further notice.

[Susser] And would an apology from Moshe Shahal be sufficient, do you think?

[Katzenell] I doubt it. I think that it would have to be something more than an apology — either Ron's reinstatement or some other solution.

Crisis Over Ron 'Solved'

TA021634 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] The Alignment has solved the crisis regarding MK Imri Ron of MAPAM. The Labor Party chairman announced that MK Ron will again be the Alignment's representative at the Knesset Finance Committee next week. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that MK Victor Shemtov promised that the MAPAM faction would resume its cooperation with the Labor Party immediately upon Ron's return to the Committee.

Histadrut Refuses Economic Package Deal

TA021300 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Jan 84 pp 1, 7

[Report by Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Tel Aviv — Senior Histadrut sources yesterday expressed willingness to consider ad hoc agreements with the government in an attempt to improve the economy. But they were adamant in refusing to join the Likud-led administration in an all-encompassing package deal and they said they totally rejected a wage freeze.

A senior aide to Secretary-General Yeroham Meshel told *THE JERUSALEM POST* last night that the labour federation would accept "with open arms" a suggestion to cooperate in attempts to curb inflation and prevent unemployment. These were the issues suggested in the communique issued after yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

In a reply to a question, the aide said the labour federation would even agree to some cuts — on condition that the burden was divided justly. "It depends on what sort of sacrifices (the workers) are asked to make. That would be a matter for negotiations," the aide said.

However, the aide insisted the Histadrut would not agree to a wage freeze. Prices may rise despite the efforts to curb inflation and the employers would have a strong argument against raising the cost of living allowance, he explained.

In the envisaged talks, the parties would have to reckon with MAPAM's position. The left-wing party is in no position to dictate policy to the Labour Party which has enough votes to dominate the Histadrut alone.

But MAPAM's senior representative in the Histadrut, Naftali Ben-Moshe, told *THE POST* he did not believe Labour would want to leave its left-wing flank open.

Ben-Moshe said he would consider a government suggestion for an agreement, but he said he was not willing to make any concessions. "This government is close to the end of the road and we are the ones (asked) to give it artificial respiration. The government has no chances of healing the economy, so why should we make sacrifices to help it?" he asked.

Nahum Fasa suggested the Histadrut lead a struggle over the social situation and Nuzhat Katsav recommended the public be called out to demonstrate against cuts in allocations for the poor.

Both were then co-opted into a "struggle team" which was told to prepare what Histadrut spokesman Shmuel Soler called "the action" against harming the welfare services.

Histadrut Calls for Negotiations

TA021636 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] The Histadrut secretary has said that the Histadrut will not agree to a package deal with the government, because the latter does not honor agreements. He added that such a package deal would be like a socioeconomic charter at a time when diffferences between the position of the Histadrut and that of the government are too big.

Histadrut Likud faction members called on Yeruham Meshel to immediately summon the Histadrut executive to discuss the government's proposal to negotiate a package deal. They told our correspondent Asher Schwartz that the Histadrut leaders are not authorized to reject this proposal as long as the executive has not made a decision.

Cabinet Discusses Budget in 1 January Session

TA011406 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1352 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Sitting in Jerusalem, the Cabinet approved the framework budget proposal raised by the finance minister. Next year's state budget is 1.440 trillion shekels. The Cabinet refrained from breaking down the budget into articles, and the Ministerial Committee on Economic Affairs will deal with this. The Cabinet decided that the finance minister will take action to obtain a package deal with the Histadrut and the employers. Here is a preliminary report on the session by our correspondent 'Adi Hadar:

Following a lengthy debate, the Cabinet endorsed the proposed framework budget raised by the finance minister. The budget is 1.440 trillion shekels, but the Cabinet did not decide how to slice the pie and how much each ministry will be getting. The Ministerial Committee on Economic Affairs, expected to meet already tomorrow, is expected to decide on this matter.

Let us go over to the Deputy Prime Minister David Levi, who said at the end of the Cabinet session that the Cabinet authorized the finance minister to take action toward agreement on a package deal with the Histadrut and the employers.

[Begin Levi recording] I addressed myself to the erosion of real wages; I said what was on my mind. In general, I support agreements with the representative body, having a good atmosphere of relations with the employees, and reaching everything through agreement. As much as the Cabinet might want to, it would not be able to operate alone as though it is the solitary element in the economy. Therefore an effort will be made to reach an agreement with the Histadrut as well as with all the other elements. [end recording]

Contrary to predictions, the Cabinet decided that the Ministerial Committee on Economic Affairs will have the final say regarding the breakdown of the budget even before the negotiations between the various ministries and the Treasury's budget department begin. This proposal was raised by the Liberals.

When Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad left the prime minister's office, he only said the following: We will come back here tomorrow to resume the negotiations over the budget.

[Begin Kohen-Orgad recording] Now we will have to meet another time to discuss the detailed budget, when it is ready. See you, and all the best. [end recording]

Cabinet Approves Budget Framework

TA011422 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] The Cabinet has approved the budget framework proposed by the finance minister, which will not exceed the sum of 1.443 trillion shekels. At the same time the Cabinet accepted a number of proposals raised in the meeting today by Minister Moda'i.

The main such proposal states that the further discussion of the budget will take place within the framework of the Ministerial Committee on Economic Affairs, which will establish the scale of priorities and the details of the budget. The finance minister was furthermore authorized to submit a detailed economic program, together with the detailed draft budget — a program which will include measures pertaining to the budget and the currency. Our economic correspondent Gadi Sukenik notes that the finance minister first of all wanted the Cabinet to approve the budget framework, after which the details wold be discussed with each minister individually. However, Minister Moda'i's proposal was forced on him — the proposal having been approved by the ministerial committee.

The Cabinet also decided to charge the finance minister with taking action forthwith on talks with the Histadrut and economic elements, in order to prevent unemployment and slow down the inflation. Our correspondent states that this proposal more or less compels the finance minister to reach a package deal forthwith.

Cabinet Discusses Settlements

TA011711 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Minister Yuval Ne'eman demanded [darash] that the Cabinet come out with a statement expressing reservations on the issue of freezing settlement activity, but the prime minister said there is no need for that because he will not be the prime minister of a government in which settlements will be frozen.

Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that he and the finance minister do not differ over the budget cuts. Security sources reported this afternoon that Minister Kohen-Orgad demands [tove'a] further cuts in the defense budget, beyond what was agreed upon with the former finance minister.

The sources said that any such supplementary cuts would actually cut through to the bone, and would result in fewer regular servicemen, adding that this could be detrimental to Israel's vital interests.

Government Regrets Italian President's Remarks

TA020923 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] Yesterday the government expressed regret at remarks made by Italian President Alessandro Pertini who said the Israeli authorities were responsible for the massacre in Sabra and Shatila and that Israel should be boycotted by society. The Cabinet announced that Pertini's remarks, made in a speech to the Italian nation to mark the New Year, contained incorrect details.

At the beginning of yesterday's Cabinet session the prime minister reported details about the murder of the Jewish family in Aleppo, Syria. The Cabinet expressed its shock at the brutal murder of an innocent mother and her two small children and called upon world public opinion to step up the pressure on Syrian authorities to permit Jews who wish to do so to leave that country.

The Cabinet also approved the appointment yesterday of Moshe (Lipke) as director of the Israel Lands Administration.

The prime minister reported details of the Egyptian delegation's visit to Israel last week.

Committee Approves 10-Percent MK Salary Cut

TA030910 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] The Knesset members' salaries have been cut by 10 percent. The Knesset House Committee decided to transfer the money that will be saved to the Treasury. The cut was initiated by Eytan Livni and Ge'ula Kohen. The committee also recommended that the Knesset members forego an additional 10 percent of their wages.

Alignment MK Yosi Sarid suggested that the Knesset members be allowed to transfer 10 percent of their income toward any objective they choose. Sarid made this proposal, as he explained later, because he refuses to have his money used for the settlements. The coalition members voted in favor of the proposal, whereas the Alignment and RAKAH representatives voted against it.

Emergency Regulations in Territories Extended

TA022013 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] This evening, the Knesset passed the second and third readings of a law extending the validity of the emergency regulations in the territories. It added a clause to these regulations enabling the justice minister to apply any Israeli law to the permanent Jewish inhabitants in the territories, on condition that the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee approves the application of that law. MK Yitzhaq Berman of the Likud voted with the opposition against this law, and MK Ra'anan Na'im of the Alignment voted with the coalition. The Shinuy faction, which voted against the law, reacted sharply. MK Amnon Rubinstein told our correspondent that this new regulation discriminates between Arabs in the territories and the settlers: The Arabs will continue to be subject to the military government's orders whereas the Jews will enjoy Israeli law, including laws providing for economic and social privileges.

U.S. Demands Government Take Firm Steps on Economy

TA010635 Jeursalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] The United States is making the increase of economic aid to Israel conditional on the latter taking real measures to heal the economy. This was reported by the finance minister in the Cabinet meeting on Friday. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that remarks to that effect were made by the U.S. secretary of state to the Israeli ambassador in Washington. The steps so far taken by Israel have not impressed the United States, and it does not believe that this constitutes a program to restore economic health. In talks with Israeli representatives, U.S. officials stress that it is inconceivable that the U.S. taxpayer should be expected to tighten his belt while in Israel this is not done.

Unemployment Rises 4 Percent in December

TA020710 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] In December the number of people receiving unemployment compensation increased by 4 percent. Of those receiving unemployment conpensation, 12 percent are academics. A total of 18,300 people are receiving unemployment compensation and our correspondent points out that the number in Jerusalem is the highest: 14 percent; in the Dan bloc it is 11 percent; and in Haifa it is 5 percent.

Al-Awwali River Bridges Reopened 2 January

TA021207 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Excerpt] This morning the Al-Awwali River bridges were reopened for selective [last word in English] traffic 3 days after they were closed for security reasons. Reinforced IDF and public works department crews are now completing a new security terminal on the bridge north of Sidon, which will soon be opened and will ease the great burden over the bridges.

IDF, Defense Ministry May Evacuate Sidon

TA311945 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] The IDF and the Defense Ministry are currently looking into the possibility of evacuating Sidon and redeploying along the city's southern outskirts. The IDF will then continue to deploy along the Al-Awwali River, our military correspondent reports. Here is a report by our military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky:

The series of terrorist attacks in Sidon last month, which resulted in two dead and eight injured, raised the question in the IDF and the Defense Ministry of whether or not it is advisable to remain

in Sidon, which is the hotbed of terrorism, and fight in the city — with everything that this entails. This includes daily friction, the danger to the lives of IDF soldiers, and an inability to react to terrorist acts perpetrated in the city center. The other side of the coin is that remaining in Sidon permits a permanent presence in the center of terrorism and allows for preemptive and intelligence operations to be carried out. The other alternative is to leave Sidon and deploy along its southern outskirts, thus eliminating the danger of daily exposure to attack and allow the IDF soldiers to defend themselves and react effectively. A withdrawal from Sidon, on the other hand, will permit terrorism to bloom unimpeded.

A demonstration was recently held in Sidon, in the course of which local youths shouted calls to kill the Jews. The Al-Awwali River bridges have been closed for 2 days now to traffic and even pedestrians and long convoys can be seen there. An IDF move to the southern outskirts will permit the terrorists to enjoy free passage from the north down to Sidon through the Al-Awwali River. Deploying along the southern outskirts of Sidon will create a number of new problems, as at issue is not only one bridge — in the style of the passageways along the Al-Awwali River — but a series of crossing points.

Closing the city of Sidon to traffic to the south might cause great difficulties to the inhabitants of southern Lebanon, who regard Sidon as the capital of the south; and it might raise feelings of fury, frustration, and possibly even terrorism among the Shi'ites. An IDF deployment south of the city would result in bringing to blossom a new terrorist center close to the IDF lines, and would lead to a flow of terrorism southward.

Still another possibility exists, and that involves a move by the IDF to the southern outskirts of the city, while at the same time continuing to carry out partial patrols of Sidon and carry out preemptive measures.

To repeat, the issue is still under examination. Both the IDF and the Defense Ministry are weighing the two alternatives seriously. They are: remaining in Sidon, or moving out to the southern outskirts.

'Source' on Lebanese, U.S. Moves in Lebanon

TA011703 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] The future of the Lebanese Administration depends on the Lebanese Army's ability to take control over the Beirut area, a senior military source said today in Jerusalem. The source believes that unless the Lebanese Army takes control in Beirut, the Americans will remove the Marines from there. Here is a report by our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel:

[Begin recording] According to this senior source, Israel and the United States agree that the foremost objective in Lebanon is the Lebanese Administration's takeover of all the areas that are not under Syrian control — namely, the Beirut area, the Ash-Shuf mountains, the coastal road, and the area under IDF control in the south. Right now the hottest area is the Beirut vicinity. According to the source, the Lebanese Army's ability to assume responsibility for the capital will be a test case for the Lebanese regime. If it fails in this, the source said: I can see black days ahead for it. If the Lebanese Army does not succeed, then obviously the Americans will pull the Marines out of Lebanon because the U.S. Administration will not be able to point to any achievements in Lebanon, and the political pressure to remove the Marines — which are an easy target for terrorist attacks — will only increase.

The military source says Israel is currently making efforts to strengthen the local forces in southern Lebanon. He claims that some readiness was evinced by some Shi'ite groups to work for Israel, but the fear of the extremist Shi'ites in Ba'labakk prevented any cooperation.

The source was asked when Israel would leave Lebanon, and he replied: The only condition for that will be that security arrangements acceptable to us are established. On the question of whether we are insisting on a Syrian withdrawal as a precondition for a reciprocal move on our part, he provided a somewhat evasive answer, contending that it would not be wise to say at this stage that we are foregoing the Syrians' departure. [end recording]

'Sources' on Evacuation Plans

TA011812 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Security sources have said that Israel will leave Lebanon when it ensures that the appropriate security arrangements — guaranteeing peace for the Galilee — have been reached. This was stated in a meeting with political reporters. Our correspondent notes that this means that Israel will apparently not make the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon conditional upon the Syrians' withdrawal. The sources emphasized that the current direction of Israeli policy is in harmony with that of the United States. It is aimed at strengthening the Lebanese Army so it can replace the Multinational Force and the IDF and take control over the central area of the country. At the same time, they accepted the view that the U.S. President will remove the Marines from Lebanon a few months prior to the U.S. elections. On another matter, the sources denied allegations that Israel is contemplating removing its forces from Sidon.

West Bank Agitation Marks Fatah Establishment Day

TA011706 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1630 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Jerusalem, 1 Jan (ITIM) — Relative quiet prevailed in most of the Judaea and Samaria towns today, 1 January, the 19th anniversary of the establishement of Fatah, a date considered especially prone to agitation in the area.

A curfew was imposed on the Nabulus casbah today since the morning hours to preempt the possibility of order violations. The curfew was imposed after several local children threw stones at cars and stores in the region, and in light of the fact that a Molotov cocktail was thrown around the clock square.

Following those incidents, some merchants closed their shops, but once the curfew was imposed on the casbah, and with the

encouragement of the security forces, the city shops opened.

Last night at 0200 a Molotov cocktail was hurled in the town of Qabatiyah near Janin at an Arab-Israeli bus from inside the green line. The bomb exploded after the bus had passed, and therefore there were no casualties and no damage.

Another incendiary bomb was thrown this afternoon near the Balatah refugee camp at an IDF patrol. It did not go off and no damage was caused. In all three cases the security forces launched wide-scale combing activity to locate the perpetrators of the acts.

No disorders were reported in the schools and universities throughout the West Bank. It would be safe to assume that the wintry weather contributed to the relative quiet.

Security forces are aligning to prevent any possible hostile activity.

West Bank Councils Establish Settlements

TA030620 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Judaea and Samaria local councils have begun setting up settlements on their own because of the budget cuts. The Mate Binyamin local council has established four such settlements in temporary dwellings: Adam, Dolev, 'Anatot and Ma'ale Levona.

Our correspondent Shalom Oren has been told that even if no budgetary allocations can be found for it, the councils will set up some 20 settlements next year.

Kimche Demands Egypt Reconvene Committees

TA301851 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche demanded [darash] of the Egyptian deputy foreign minister that Cairo again make possible reconvening all joint committees established after the signing of the peace accords.

The committees involved deal with commerce, communications, culture, and tourism. Kimche also demanded that Egypt fulfill the promises made during his last visit to Cairo regarding granting import licenses and opening tourism channels from Egypt to Israel.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a has been told that the members of the Egyptian delegation promised to see to the urgent and sympathetic handling of all the demands. The parties agreed to pursue the meetings, and the next session will soon be scheduled.

Egyptian Import Licenses Discussed

TA011020 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Jan 84 p 11

[Report by Refa'el Mann]

[Text] Israel has asked Egypt to accelerate the issuing of import licenses for Israeli goods worth millions of dollars. This request was raised at the end of the week by Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche in the talks he held in Jerusalem with Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid.

Israeli sources noted that these licenses would enable a wide range of Israeli agricultural and industrial products to be exported. Jerusalem attaches great importance to the possibility of expanding trade with Egypt along with a deepening of relations in other fields.

Israel's request to begin talks at once on the resumption of the agreement on bilateral cultural relations was also discussed.

Husayn Reportedly Delays Support for Negotiations

TA010958 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Jan 84 p 2

[Report by Yosef Tzuri'el]

[Text] "You have waited for 16 years, so wait for another month" — this is the gist of the reaction given during the weekend to Arab dignitaries in the administered territories who sought King Husayn's permission to initiate a petition of support for beginning political negotiations with Israel.

The urgent appeal to Amman was supported by wide circles, including Jordanian loyalists and supporters of an 'Arafat-led PLO. In consultations they held following the "Tripoli exodus," the prevailing view was that the sooner King Husayn demonstrates his willingness to enter negotiations, the easier it will be for 'Arafat to muster strength within the PLO. Over the weekend it became clear that King Husayn is in no hurry to reveal signs that he is willing to join this process.

Foreign Ministry Denies Mozambique Accusation

TA021146 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman emphatically denies Mozambique's claim that Israel is training fighters of the underground movement that is battling against it.

The spokesman stressed that the reports are groundless, and that Israel is not helping this underground movement in any way, either directly or indirectly.

Earlier, an official spokesman said in Mozambique that the statement that Israel was training these underground fighters was based on documents seized from the fighters.

Minister Arens on Conscientious Objector Issue
TA020958 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Jan 84 p 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar Yosef]

[Text] Defense Minister Professor Moshe Arens said yesterday that he regarded with great gravity the emergence of conscientious objectors who have refused armed service in the wake of the Peace for Galilee war. Yesterday Minister Arens received adelegation of "Tzlil" ("Youth for Israel") [Tze'irim Lema'an Yisra'el] in his office and promised them he would work to prevent the expansion of this dangerous phenomenon to other sectors, too. He also reacted to the demands by the Tzlil leaders that demonstrations by leftists in Judaea and Samaria should be banned, and expressed his dissatisfaction at the holding of demonstrations and counterdemonstrations in the territories, which deepen internal dissension in Israel. Tzlil Chairman Yisra'el Katz told *MA'ARIV* that his movement was collecting signatures to demand more severe punishment for people refusing to serve.

LIBYA

Military Leaders Meet With Palestinian Officials

LD011016 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Jan (JANA) — Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud and Brigadier General Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the armed forces, last night had a meeting with Brothers Abu Salih, member of the commanding committee of the new revolutionary movement of Fatah, and Ahmad Jibril, general secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command, who arrived in Tripoli at midday.

JANA Editor Views Egypt's Role in Arab World

LD311522 Tripoli JANA in English 1432 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Thani 26, December 31, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The political editor of the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY released the following commentary on current contacts between some Arab regimes and the Egyptian regime which is committed to the treacherous Camp David accords:

Official contacts between some Arab countries and the Egyptian regime, it should be pointed out, are an (?insult) to the Arab masses. The reason behind this is the Egyptian regime's illegitimate relationship with the Zionist enemy. Furthermore, these contacts are a blatant violation of the resolutions of the Baghdad summit, i.e. boycotting Egypt.

Looking at the question from a different perception we find that for some Arab countries signing the Baghdad agreement was a tactical step. These regimes, no matter what excuses are given now, have never been genuine with regard to the Arab folk policy.

Nevertheless, their justifications should not mislead us. Such contacts mean an implicit recognition of the expansionist enemy. Not a single Arab would forget that the bloody Zionist flag is being hoisted in the sky of Cairo.

The present regime in Egypt has gone many steps further than what As-Sadat did. While the cursed As-Sadat went to the enemy,the present regime brought them to Cairo. Egyptian [word indistinct] has been surrendered to the forces of NATO. Presidential places are opened to Zionist terrorists. Markets are openly brought in Egyptian markets. [as received] Israeli tourists are seen in the streets of towns.

The regime of Cairo has not committed itself even to a verbal promise to abrogate this treacherous agreement. On the contrary, it is defending it and dragging new policies to accept its conditions. Egyptians officials supported the U.S.-Zionist strategic alliance accords. A few days ago they met with 'Arafat as the new link in the building of submission.

If these Arab heads accept the conditions of Zion, the Arab masses will not. The year 1984, we have no doubt, shall be the year of resolution in the Arab world. A storm will break out putting down all heads of capitulation.

In 1984, the Arab masses shall directly confront their oppressive rulers. Despite the massacres of Sabra and Shatilah the Arab masses shall rise to take revenge on those who accept seeing the Israeli flag in Cairo.

MOROCCO

PLO Official Gives 'Arafat Condolences to Hassan

LD311259 Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Rabat, Dec 31, (MAP) — King Hassan II of Morocco received Mr. Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Central Committee of the Palestinian mainstream Fatah on Friday in Rabat.

During the meeting, Mr Khalid al-Hasan presented the condolences of Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, PLO leader, to the monarch following the death last week of Prince Moulay Badallah, brother of the Moroccan monarch.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Ahmed Bensouda, adviser to the king, as well as the PLO representative in Rabat, Mr. Abu Marwan.

Mauritanian President's Comments on Sahara Criticized

LD301357 Rabat MAP in English 1232 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Rabat, Dec 30 (MAP) — The recent declarations made by the president of Mauritania, Khouna Ould Haydala, on the Sahara are "thoughtless and inconsistent", stated this Friday's *AL BAYANE daily, mouthpiece of the Party of Progress and* Socialism (communist).

"Nouakchott's official stance," the daily added, "is neither acceptable, nor calculated, nor even balanced, and nobody in Morocco can accept that by recognizing the so-called "SDAR" (Saharan Republic) there will be a real Mauritanian neutrality".

"By recommending the implementation of the OAU decisions, Mr Haydala abuses truth and misrepresents the pan-African official documents, *AL BAYANE* wrote, specifying that there is no OAU text compelling Morocco to establish contacts with the mercenaries of the "Polisario" (an Algerian-backed group of mercenaries claiming sovereignty over the Moroccan Sahara).

After it rejected the text invoked by Haydala, one which is absolutely incompatible with the spirit and form of the recommendations made by the Nairobi summit of the Organization of African Unity," *AL BAYANE* pointed out that there is here a blatant bias for Balkanization theses, an evident interference in the internal affairs of a state and a people who are struggling for their national unity, and an all out alignement on the stance adopted by Morocco's opponents.

Morocco and its people, according to the daily, are in the right to reject such declarations and explain to their neighbor of the south that it was engaging on a dangerous path.

Mauritania's act will undoubtedly be interpreted here if not as an hostile act, at least as an unfriendly act towards Morocco, its

people and its legitimate aspirations," *AL BAYANE*stated before concluding that such an attitude would not in any way help in finding a definite settlement to the conflict; on the contrary, it would set barriers between Mauritania and Morocco while so many ties and so much friendship exist between their peoples.

SUDAN

Numayri Speaks on Independence Anniversary

JN312133 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1720 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Summary] President Ja'far Numaryi delivered a speech in the garden of the People's Palace in Khartoum on 31 December, on the 28th anniversary of Sudan's independence. Numaryi hailed the Sudanese leaders who worked for the country's independence. He praises the May revolution' achievements and the Sudanese-Egyptian integration process.

Touching on the application of the Islamic laws in Sudan, Numayri said: "The May revolution will not allow anybody to drag it into disputes in the name of religion. Sudan will remain a model for the application of Islamic tolerence." Numaryi said that he will publish a book on the Islamic law and the relations between religion and the authorities. Numayri said: "The Islamic laws in Sudan will not be at the expense of the political organization of the SSU. It will not be at the expense of the presidential system, the decentralized rule and national unity because there will not be prejudice and outbidding in the name of religion. Islamic law will not be at the expense of the national sense of belonging and will not be a shelter for some people. We will not abandon law and the constitution."

Touching on the events in southern Sudan, Numayri said: "The events in some part of southern Sudan have not been caused by the application of the Islamic law. Their cause had existed before. However, the Islamic law is being exploited within a plot to which Sudan, other countries in Africa, and the Arab region are being exposed." The president said: "The pressure on Sudan from its western borders with Libya and Chad has failed. The Libyan invasion of Sudan in 1976 and the invasion of Chad have failed." Numayri added: "Our people's armed forces are able to assume their duties, and the sons of our people in the south are defending their unity."

TUNISIA

'Violent' Riots Reported Over Bread Price Rise

LD021118 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Violent riots broke out yesterday in Tunisia at Al-Qasrayn, 200 km west of Tunis, as a result of a large increase in the cost of bread. From 1 January, the price of bread went up by 70 percent in Tunisia.

Police and army units intervened after demonstrators ransacked shops in the town.

Ministry Statement Issued

LD021243 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] The Ministry of the Interior has issued the following statement:

Since 29 December 1983, riots and demonstrations have been taking place on the streets of (Gbilli), Al-Hammah, Al-Qasrayn, and Qafsah, perpetrated by some idle people, parasites and hostile people, resulting in strong violence, plundering, and damage to public and private property, a matter which forced the security forces to confront the corrupt and limit the damage. The regular forces have been able to control the situation.

Four people were killed and several were wounded among the security forces and the citizens. Justice will seek the causes of the human and material losses.

Further on Rioting

LD021640 Paris Domestic Service in French 1600 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] In Tunisia, the rioting has spread to the port of Qabis,400 km south of Tunis. After rioting in Gafsa this morning, shops were looted and crowds were dispersed by the forces of order.

Several towns in the south of Tunisia have been the scene of rioting, which has caused four deaths and an unknown number of injured since Thursday. The population in the south is protesting over the doubling of the price of bread.

Violence Spreads to Tunis

OW031243 Hong Kong AFP in English 1226 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Tunis, Jan 3 (AFP) — Police broke up food price protests with tear gas here today in the first violence in the capital after several people died, dozens were injured and hundreds arrested in food riots in other Tunisian towns.

Reliable sources said today that 10 people died in the riots which erupted in southern and central Tunisia on Thursday after authorities doubled the price of bread and sharply increased the price of other food staples.

Police resorted to tear gas here after groups of young people demonstrating in support of the southerners clashed with security forces and stoned buses and shop windows. Some sources said the demonstrators were mostly high school pupils.

Shopkeepers in the city centre closed shutters and helicopters intermittently patrolled the city. Security forces in riot gear dispersed demonstrators on several main squares. This was the first time the capital had been affected by the rioting that erupted in several southern and west-central Tunisian towns last week.

The protests are over the doubling of bread prices and sharp increases in the cost of other grain products, including the wheat semolina used to make couscous, the Tunisian national dish.

Some sources today feared the death toll could be higher than 10, although trade union sources put the figure at eight. Official sources here said yesterday that four people had died in the rioting, and blamed "idlers and the unemployed" for the violence.

The rioting broke out in the town of Qasserine, about 200 km (125 miles) southwest of here, and in Kebili in the far south of the country, before spreading to the southern port of Gabes and to Gafsa, south of Qasserine. In the port of Safaqis about 220 km (135 miles) south of here, an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent said rail and road links running south and west from the town remained closed today. The government brought in troops to deal with the riots, the worst in Tunisia since trade union disturbances in which some 40 people died in 1978.

WESTERN SAHARA

Ministry Reports 31 Dec Attack on Moroccans

LD020222 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] A communique published by the Saharan Information Ministry last night in Hawzah, in the liberated territories, says that units of the Saharan Popular Liberation Army launched a fresh attack on Saturday on Moroccan positions in the region of (Khashbinine).

The Saharan communique says that this violent attack left 75 dead and dozens of wounded in the ranks of the Moroccan troops. It also resulted in the destruction of 23 vehicles, including tanks, light troop carriers, and an important quantity of weapons.

The Saharan communique adds that at a time when the international community has expressed the desire to make 1984 a year of peace in the SDAR and a year of concord in northwest Africa, the king of Morocco has assumed the grave responsibility of continuing military escalation following his rejection of the peace plan adopted by the OAU and the UN.

CONGO

SWAPO Leader Arrives, Denounces South Africa

AB300857 Paris AFP in English 0812 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Brazzaville, Dec 30 (AFP) — Sam Nujoma, president of the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) fighting the South African presence in Namibia, has begun a visit to Congo as South Africa continued bombing SWAPO's main base in Angola.

The leader of the Namibian independence movement hit out at South Africa's "expansionist, colonialist and facist" policies. He said the South African Army's current operations in Angola were in revenge for defeats at the hands of Angolan Government troops in 1976.

Mr Nujoma, who arrived yesterday after a three-day stay in Algeria, added that the South African Government recently set up a special unit to fight popular resistance in Namibia, which is ruled by Pretoria in defiance of the United Nations.

(The South African Armed Forces chief, General Constand Viljoen, said in Pretoria yesterday that the operations in Angola, begun on December 6, could last for up to another week.)

CHAD

Habre Sees Libya Preparing Attack on Iriba

JN011518 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Ndjamena, 1 Jan (SUNA) — Chadian President Hissein Habre yesterday announced that Libya is preparing for a new attack in the eastern half of Chad on the city of Iriba. In this regard, he also affirmed that Libya has made military preparations, reinforced its forces, and brought huge quantities of weapons to launch the attack. This came during President Habre's reception of ambassadors and representatives of the diplomatic missions in Ndjamena yesterday on the new year. President Habre asked them to inform their governments of this serious development, and asserted that this is a matter of fact and that some states have information in this regard.

President Habre also asserted that his government will assume its responsibility with all its available capabilities to defend and protect Chad. He also said that this expected Libyan attack comes at a time when the Chadian Government is preparing to hold a national reconciliation conference in Addis Ababa and at a time when the world is attaching importance to this conference. He also said: We have previously drawn attention to the Libyan interference in Chad, but many people did not believe us until Libya interfered and struck at us with its warplanes and tanks. Concluding, President Habre expressed his hope that the Addis Ababa conference will realize a national reconciliation and lasting accord among the Chadian people.

France's Hernu Meets With Habre, Visits Troops

AB011845 Paris AFP in French 1509 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 1 Jan (AFP) — French Defense Minister Charles Hernu had a 2-hour meeting with Chadian head of state Hissein Habre on Sunday morning. The two statesmen examined the relations between France and Chad, which the French minister described as excellent.

Mr Hernu, who celebrated the new year in the company of a detachment of the French Army at Biltine (eastern Chad), stated that the French soldiers in Chad displayed an "iron morale." The French soldiers stationed in Chad perfectly understand their mission and their role, the French minister stated.

Mr Hernu recalled that the mission assigned to the French soldiers dispatched to Chad within the framework of the "Manta Operation" is one of instruction and training. The French minister also said: The French military presence in Chad must enable diplomacy to play its role with a view to finding a solution to the Chadian conflict. Talking about the "red line" which separates the French troops from the former President Goukouni Oueddei's forces supported by Libyans — between the 14th and the 15th parallels — the French minister said he would rather call it the "red zone."

The French defense minister, who said he did not know when the French troops would pull out of Chad, said however that the Red Berets were not "in a hurry" to go home.

Questioned about the upcoming meeting on the reconcilation in Chad scheduled to be held on 9 January in Addis Ababa, Charles Hernu expressed the belief that President Hissein Habre and his government hope for peace and reconciliation in that country. "Chadians cannot refrain from calling for peace," he added.

Government Releases Reduced 1984 Budget

AB011840 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1708 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 30 Dec (AZAP) — Chad's budget for 1984 amounts to 12.8 billion CFA francs, that is, about three times smaller that last year's budget, which totalled about 36 billion. The expected receipts amount to 10.2 billion, while the expenditures will total 12.8 billion.

The government has decided to call on Chadians for "a contribution to the reconstruction effort." The rate of such contribution and the modalities will be defined through a decree, the official communique says.

ZAIRE

Zaire, Ivory Coast Leaders Exchange Messages

AB291725 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1145 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Kinshasa, 28 Dec (AZAP) — Mr Gaston Allonko Flankan, the ambassador of the Ivory Coast and dean of the diplomatic

corps accredited to Kinshasa, stated on Wednesday to AZAP that there is perfect understanding between the Ivory Coast and Zaire and that the excellent relations between the two countries are only matched by the friendship that unites their two presidents, Houphouet-Boigny and Mobutu Sese Seko.

Mr Flankan made this statement a while before leaving Kinshasa for Abidjan to bring a message from leader Mobutu Sese Seko to his Ivory Coast counterpart.

The Ivorian diplomat, who did not reveal the contents of the message, was returning that very morning from Gbadolite, where he went and delivered a message from the Ivorian head of state to Marshal Mobutu. Mr Flankan is scheduled to return to Kinshasa next Friday.

Further Details on Soviet Maritime Group Visit
AB302211 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1802 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Kinshasa, 29 Dec (AZAP) — "Cooperation between Zaire and the Soviet Union has just been given a new impetus in the field of maritime transport following the deliberations of the Joint Zaire-Soviet Commission held in Kinshasa from 21 to 23 December. This cooperation can be extended to other economic sectors of Zaire, and the Soviet Union is prepared for any negotiations in this respect."

These were the impressions of Mr V.V. Beletskiy, the Soviet deputy minister for maritime transport, who left Kinshasa on Thursday for Moscow via Brazzaville, at the end of a 9-day stay in Zaire where he led his country's delegation to the fifth session of the Joint Zaire-USSR Commission on Maritime Transport.

The session brought together for 48 hours Soviet and Zairian experts from the maritime sector and permitted the two sides to come to an understanding on the training of Zairian specialists at the Odessa (USSR) High School for Seamen where already there are two batches of students, 15 in all.

This training will have to be extended for the benefit of Zairian residents in the USSR who might express the desire to specialize in the fields of port operations and freighting.

After the enthusiasm expressed in the agreements signed in 1976, cooperation between the two countries will be strengthened through commercial exchanges between the respective maritime companies, and Zaire will be able to import maritime transport equipment. In the cultural sector, every year the USSR offers scholarships to Zairian students for studies. There are regular exchange visits by Soviet and Zairian artists and youth groups of the two countries.

The Soviet maritime transport delegation returned satisfied with the hospitality of the Zairian people and especially with its tours to the agro-industrial complex of the presidential estate in N'sele, the Matadi ports facilities and the Inga hydroelectric station.

NIGERIA

Materials on 31 December Change of Government

'Federal Military Government Announcement'

AB310848 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Dec 83

["Special Federal Military Government announcement"]

[Text] Fellow countrymen and women: I, Brigadier Sanni Abacha of the Nigerian Army, address you this morning on behalf of the Nigerian Armed Forces.

You are all living witnesses to the grave economic predicament and uncertainty which an inept and corrupt leadership has imposed on our beloved nation for the past 4 years. I am referring to the harsh, intolerable conditions under which we are now living. Our economy has been hopelessly mismanaged. We have become a debtor and beggar nation. There is inadequacy of food at reasonable prices for our people, who are now fed up with endless announcements of importation of foodstuffs. Health services are in shambles, as our hospitals are reduced to mere consulting clinics without drugs, water, and equipment.

Our educational system is deteriorating at an alarming rate. Unemployment figures, including the graduates, have reached embarrassing and unacceptable proportions. In some states, workers are being owed salary arrears of 8 to 12 months and in others there are threats of salary cuts. Yet our leaders revel in squandermania. Corruption and indiscipline continue to proliferate public appointments in complete disregard of our sad economic realities.

After due consultation over these deplorable conditions, I and my colleagues in the Armed Forces have, in the discharge of our national role as promoters and protectors of our national interests, decided to affect a change in the leadership of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and to form a Federal Military Government. This task has just been completed.

The Federal Military Government hereby decrees the suspension of the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1979 relating to all elective and appointive offices and representative institutions including the office of the president, state governors, federal and state executive councils, special advisers, special assistants, the establishment of the National Assembly and the houses of assembly, including the formation of political parties.

Accordingly, Alhaji Shehu Osman Shagari ceases forthwith to be the president and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria. All the incumbents of the above-named offices shall, if they have not already done so, vacate their formal official residences, surrender all government properties in their possession, and report to the nearest police station in their constituencies within 7 days. The clerk of the National Assembly, the president of the Senate, and speaker of the House of Representatives shall, within 2 weeks, render account of all property of the National Assembly.

All political parties are banned. The bank account of the Federal Electoral Commission and all political parties are frozen with immediate effect. All foreigners living in any part of the country are assured of their safety and will be adequately protected. Henceforth, workers not on essential duties are advised to keep off the streets. All categories of workers on essential duties will, however, report to their places of work immediately.

With effect from today, a dusk-to-dawn curfew will be imposed between 7 pm and 6 am each day until further notice. All airways flights have been suspended forthwith, and all airports, seaports, and border posts closed. External communication has been cut. The customs and excise, immigration, and the police will maintain vigilance and ensure watertight security at the borders, as their area administrators or commanders will have themselves to blame if any wanted people escape.

Fellow countrymen and women, the change in government has been a bloodless and painstaking operation and we do not want anyone to lose his or her life. People are warned in their own interest to be law abiding and to give the Federal Military Government maximum cooperation. Anyone caught in disturbing public order will be summarily dealt with. For avoidance of doubt, they are forewarned that we shall not hesitate to declare martial law in any area or state of the Federation in which disturbances occur.

Fellow countrymen, women, and comrades-at-arms, I will like to assure you that the Armed Forces of Nigeria is ready to lay its life for our dear nation, but not for the present irresponsible leadership of the past civilian administration. You are to await further announcements. Good morning.

Situation 'Well Under Control'

AB312244 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2230 GMT 31 Dec 83

["Special announcement" by unidentified speaker — live]

[Text] Fellow countrymen, women, and comrades-at-arms:

I must thank you for your patience and understanding since my maiden announcement early this morning. I would like to once more assure you that the situation is well under control, and there is no cause for alarm.

You are, however, advised to await an important announcement which will be made by the head of state and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, at 12 midnight. Thank you once more.

Military Leave Canceled

AB311512 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Announcement]

[Text] Fellow countrymen: While you await the announcement

of the head of state and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, we call on you once again to continue to be law abiding. We thank the members of the Armed Forces and the masses of the people for their obvious solidarity with our action.

Members of the Armed Forces and other law-enforcement agents are reminded of the need to maintain discipline. They must avoid provocation and refuse to be intimidated by reactionary elements. Furthermore, all leave and passes of members of the Armed Forces are canceled. Those already on leave will report to the nearest military unit to them. Brigade commanders will be responsible for the smooth running of the states under their operational control pending the appointment of military governors in due course.

We guarantee the safety and lives and properties of all law-abiding citizens of this nation and foreigners alike. Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!

New Head of State Speaks

AB010028 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2355 GMT 31 Dec 83

["Maiden speech" by Major General Muhammadu Buhari, head of the Federal Military Government and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria; place not given — live]

[Text] Fellow Nigerians: You are aware of the change in the government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which was announced early this morning. In pursuance of the primary objective of saving our beloved nation from total collapse, I, Major General Muhammadu Buhari of the Nigerian Army, after due consultations among the services of the Armed Forces, have been formally invested with the authority of the head of the Federal Military Government [FMG] and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It is with humility and a deep sense of responsibility that I accepted this challenge and call to national duty.

As you must have heard in the announcement, the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1979 has been suspended except those sections of it which are exempted in the constitution suspension and modification decree to be issued in due course.

The change became necessary in order to put an end to the serious economic predicaments and the crisis of confidence now afflicting our nation. Consequently, the Nigerian Armed Forces have constituted themselves into an FMG comprising of a Supreme Military Council, a National Council of State, a Federal Executive Council at the center, and state executive councils to be presided over by a military governor in each of the states of the Federation. Members of these bodies will be announced soon.

The nature of politics since 1979: The last FMG drew up a program with the aim of handing over political power to the civilians in 1979. That program, as you all know, was implemented to the letter. The 1979 Constitution was promulgated. However, little did the military realize that the political leadership of the Second Republic would sacrifice most of the checks and balances in the Constitution and bring us to the present state of general insecurity. The premium of political power became so exceedingly high that political contestants regarded victory in election as a matter of life and death struggle and were determined to capture or retain power by all means.

Mismanagement of the economy: It is true that there is worldwide economic recession. However, in the case of Nigeria, it in fact was aggravated by mismanagement. We believe that appropriate government agencies gave good advice. But their advice was disregarded by the leadership. The situation could have been saved if the legislators were alive to their constitutional responsibilities. Instead, the legislators were preoccupied with determining their salary scale, fringe benefits, and unnecessary foreign travel, et cetera, which took no account of the state of the economy and the welfare of the people they represented. As a result of their inability to cultivate financial discipline and stringent management of the economy, we have come to depend largely on internal and external borrowing to execute government projects with attendant domestic price pressure and soaring external debts.

Thus, given the propensity of the outgoing civilian administration to mismanage our financial resources, Nigeria was already condemned to live perpetually with the twin problems of federal budget deficit and weak balance of payment position with little prospect of building a virile and viable economy.

The 1983 elections: The last general elections could be anything but free and fair. The only political parties that could complain of election rigging are those parties that let their (?process) to rig. There is ample evidence that rigging and thuggery were related were related [speaker repeats himself] to the resources available to the parties. This conclusively proves to us that the parties have not developed confidence in the presidential system of government on which the nation invested so much material resources.

Corruption and indiscipline: While corruption and indiscipline had been associated with our state of underdevelopment, these twin evils in our budget policy have attained unprecedented height in the past 4 years. The corrupt, inept, and insensitive leadership in the last 4 years has been the source of immorality and impropriety in our society, since what happens in any society is largely a reflection of the leadership of that society. With no corruption in all its processes, this government will not tolerate kickbacks, inflation of contracts, and over-invoicing of imports, et cetera.

Nor will it condone forgery, fraud, embezzlement, misuse and abuse of profit, and illegal dealing in foreign exchange and smuggling. Arson has been used to cover fraudulent acts in public institutions. I am referring to fires that gutted the P&T [Post and Telecommunications] building in Lagos, the Anambra State Broadcasting Corporation, the Republic Building at Marina, the Federal Ministry of Education, the Federal Capital Development Authority's account office at Abuja, and the NET [Nigerian External Telecommunications] building. Most of these fires occurred at a time when Nigerians were being apprehensive of the frequency of fraud scandals and the government's apparent incapacity to deal with them. Corruption has become so pervasive and intractable that a whole ministry has been created to tame it.

Moment of Truth: Fellow Nigerians, this indeed is the moment of truth. My colleagues and I in the Supreme Military Council must be frank enough to acknowledge the fact that at the moment, an accurate picture of the financial position is yet to be determined. We have no doubt that the situation is bad enough. In spite of this, every effort will be made to ensure that the difficult and degrading conditions under which we are living are ameliorated.

Let no one, however, be deceived that workers who have not received their salaries in the past 8 or so months would receive such salaries between today and tomorrow; or that hospitals, which have been without drugs for months, would be provided with enough drugs immediately. We are determined that with the help of God we shall do our best to settle genuine payments to which government is committed, including backlog of workers' salaries after proper scrutiny.

We are confident, and we assure you, that even in the face of the global recession and the seemingly grim and disturbing financial picture, given prudent management of Nigeria's existing financial resources and our determination to substantially reduce waste, it will be possible to clear the accumulated domestic payment arrears, to reduce and eventually narrow down rising budgetary deficit and weak balance of payment position.

Policy Program: The FMG will reappraise policies with a view to paying greater attention to the following areas: The economy will be given new impetus and better sense of direction; corrupt officials and their agents will be brought to book; in view of the drought that affected most parts of the country, the FMG will within available resources import foodstuffs to supplement the shortfall suffered in the last harvest; payment of salary arrears to workers. [sentence as heard]

Our foreign policy will both be dynamic and realistic. Africa will, of course, continue to be the centerpiece of our foreign policy. The morale and combat readiness of the Armed Forces will be given high priority. Officers and men with high personal and professional integrity will have nothing to fear.

The judiciary, the civil service, and the police, et cetera: The chief justice of Nigeria and all other holders of judicial appointments within the Federation shall continue in their appointments and with the judiciary shall continue to function under existing laws subject to such exception as may be decreed from time to time by the FMG.

All holders of appointment in the federal civil service, the police, the National Security Organization, shall continue to exercise their functions in the normal way subject to changes that may be introduced by the FMG. All board chairmen and members of tutelary corporations and parastatals and other existing departments are hereby relieved of their appointments with immediate effect.

External relations: The FMG will maintain and strengthen existing diplomatic relations with other states and with international organizations and institutions such as the OAU, the United Nations and its organs, the OPEC, ECOWAS, and the Commonwealth Organization, et cetera.

The FMG will honor and respect all treaty obligations entered into by the previous governments. And we hope that such nations and bodies will reciprocate this gesture by respecting our country's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Fellow Nigerians, finally we have dutifully intervened to save this nation from imminent collapse. We therefore expect all Nigerians including those who participated directly or indirectly in bringing the nation into present predicaments to cooperate with us. This generation of Nigerians and indeed future generations have no other country than Nigeria. We shall remain here and salvage it together. May God be with us all. Good morning.

NAN Profiles Head of State

AB011540 Lagos NAN in English 1505 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Lagos, Jan 1 (NAN) — The head of state and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, Maj-Gen. Muhammadu Buhari, 42, was born on December 17, 1942 in Daura, Kaduna State. He was the general officer commanding the First Mechanised Disivion of the Nigerian Army in Kaduna until his appointment as the head of the military government last night.

Before this, Maj Gen Buhari served as a military governor of the former North-eastern State from 1975 to 1976. Later, he was military governor of Borno State in 1976 and was appointed the federal commissioner for petroleum resources from 1976 to 1978, and the chairman of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation from 1976 [word indistinct] under the Murtala-Obasanjo regime. He returned to regular military service in 1980 and was made the general officer commanding the Fourth Division of the Nigerian Army.

The head of state attended primary and secondary schools in Daura and Katsina before going to the Nigerian Military College in Kaduna and later had further military training in staff colleges in England and India.

Maj-Gen Buhari becomes the seventh in the line of heads of government that have ruled this country since 1960. His predecessors in office were, Alhaji Tafawa Balewa, first prime minister in the First Republic, 1960; Gen Aguyi Ironsi, Jan. 1966 to July 1966; Gen Yakubu Gowon, July 1966 to July 1975; Gen. Murtala Muhammed, July 1975 to Feb. 1976, Gen Olusegun Obasanjo, Feb 1976 to Sept. 1979; and Alhaji Shehu Shagari, Oct. 1979 to Dec. 1983.

AFP on Buhari

AB011240 Paris AFP in French 1113 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Paris, 1 Jan (AFP) — The new Nigerian head of state, Major General Muhammed Buhari, is an experienced administrator and a soldier who is well informed on the subtleties of his country's political and military systems. An out-and-out nationalist who dislikes publicity, he was the commissioner of petroleum and energy under the last military government, which organized elections for the return to civilian rule, and handed over power in 1979 to President Shehu Shagari, whom he now replaces.

As a young lieutenant colonel in 1975, he was a member of the group of officers that overthrew General Yakubu Gowon, the man who led the Federal Army to victory over seccessionist Biafra during a 30-month civil war. His first post following the 1975 coup was that of governor of Northwestern State [as received], which has since been divided into the states of Niger and Sokoto. This is also where President Shagari has his origins.

After the February 1976 assassination of General Murtala Mohammed, who replaced Gowon, Col Buhari returned to the capital as a member of the Supreme Military Council [SMC], which was in power, and became one of its most influential members. He was at the same time commissioner for petroleum and energy, administering Nigeria's oil wealth, which provided 90 percent of the country's revenue.

He fought beside his SMC colleagues during the civil war, and with them played an important role in handing over power to the civilians before 1 October 1979, in accord with a pledge made by the young officers in July of 1975. He was one of the rare officers to remain in the Army after the military returned to the barracks.

Army, Defense Chiefs Resign

AB311145 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 31 Dec 83

["Special announcement"]

[Text] Fellow Nigerians, you will recall that in the maiden broadcast made by this administration, the circumstances which led the former president, state governors, federal ministers, state commissioners, and other public functionaries to relinquish their posts were announced.

Furthermore, the Federal Military Government has accepted the voluntary retirement of the chief of Defense Staff, the chief of Army Staff, the chief of Naval Staff, the chief of Air Staff, vice chief of Defense Staff, and the inspector general of police. A decree outlining the principal organs of this government will soon be promulgated and published.

Fellow Nigerians, the task before the new administration is challenging, and we are equal to the task. You are all once more warned to be law-abiding, and for every Nigerian to pursue his or her legitimate duties without any form of molestation. Anyone caught disturbing public peace or resisting arrest will be summarily dealt with.

Further announcements will be made soon. Good afternoon.

Buhari To Meet Officials

AB020820 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0750 GMT 2 Jan 84

["Special announcement"]

[Text] The head of state, General Muhammadu Buhari, will this morning, Monday, January 2 1984 at 1100 in Dodan Barracks, Lagos, meet all Federal Government permanent secretaries. A statement from the office of the secretary to the military government and head of service, Mr G.A. Longe, said that all will be seated at 1045 am in the council's chambers, Dodan Barracks, Lagos.

More on Meeting

AB021250 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] The head of state and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, has asked federal permanent secretaries to assume their rightful role in the continuing system of government. He said in his first official meeting with them at State House, Ribadu Road, in Lagos today that his administration regards the permanent secretaries as advisers and will listen and act on the advice they would give from time to time. General Buhari noted that having been in the system with successive governments, the permanent secretaries were in a good position to direct the military in the act of good government. However, the head of state warned that accountability would be the most important consideration of his administration, adding that those who misuse government resources or put government property to their own use would be locked up until the matter was cleared. He said his administration would not condone the nonsenses of litigation in dealing with culprits and said that if the government was compensating workers within its means, there was every reason for them to be loyal and honest.

General Buhari called on all those who thought they could not fit in or thought they deserved more than was their present due to take the honorable option of leaving the service. The head of state said that the permanent secretaries would have to work with civilian or military ministers and pointed out that whatever was the case, the permanent secretaries should concede political authority to the ministers and try to advise them as best as they could.

General Buhari reminded the administrative chiefs that the worse thing they could do at this moment was to go against the principles of their calling and this would be a great disservice to the nation.

A Radio Nigeria correspondent says that all the federal permanent secretaries, including the newly appointed ones, were present at the meeting. Also present were the service chiefs of the army and the police and the secretary to the Federal Military Government, G.A. Longe. And tomorrow, the first meeting of the Supreme Military Council will be held in Lagos. It is to deliberate on and approve the appointments of members of the National Council of State and the Federal Executive Council.

Supreme Military Council Appointed

AB012230 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2200 GMT 1 Jan 84

["Announcement"]

[Text] The Federal Military Government [FMG] has announced

the composition of the Supreme Military Council [SMC]. It comprises of:

Major General Muhammadu Buhari, head of the FMG and commander in chief of the Armed Forces as chairman;

Brigadier (Tunde Ojiako), chief of staff, supreme headquarters;

Major General T.Y. (Sani), minister of defense;

Major General Ibrahim Banbangida, chief of Army Staff;

Commodore Augustine Aikon, chief of Naval Staff;

Air Vice Marshal Ibrahim Alfa, chief of Air Staff;

Major General Mamman Vasta; Brigadier Mohammed Magoro; Brigadier Sanni Abacha; Brigadier Ona Onu; Brigadier N.G. Nasko; Brigadier Y.Y. Kure, Colonel Salihu Ibrahim; Mr Etem Inyang, inspector general of police, director general of the Nigerian Security Organization, NSO, attorney general of the Federation and minister of justice.

The head of state of the FMG and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, Maj Gen Muhammadu Buhari, has approved the appointment of Mr G.A. Longe, CFR [commander of the Federal Republic], as the secretary of the FMG and head of service while the appointment of Alhaji Mohammed Gambo as the deputy inspector general of police has also been approved. All these appointments take immediate effect.

To Meet 3 Jan

AB020915 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0900 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] The first meeting of the Supreme Military Council will be held tomorrow in Lagos. It is to deliberate on and approve the appointment of members of the National Council of State and the Federal Executive Council.

Curfew Still in Effect

AB021240 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] The curfew imposed by the Federal Military Government last Saturday is still in force. The curfew is between 7 o'clock in the evening and 6 in the morning.

Shagari's Whereabouts Unclear

AB021748 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Jan 84

[From the press review]

[Text] There seems to be conflicting reports by *THE NEW NIGERIAN* and *THE GUARDIAN* as to the whereabouts of the former head of state, Alhaji Shehu Shagari. *THE NEW NIGERIAN* reports that up to the time of going to the press there was no news of the whereabouts of Alhaji Shehu Shagari while there are conflicting reports about the senate president, Dr Joseph Wayas. According to *THE NEW NIGERIAN*, one version of the reports says Senator Wayas has traveled to Europe, while the other says he is one of the men taken by the Army in the wake of the coup.

But *THE GUARDIAN* in related stories reports that Alhaji Shehu Shagari was arrested at Abuja and taken to Kaduna preparatory to being moved to Lagos. The paper further reports that the former vice president, Dr Alex Ekwueme, and former Speaker of the House of Representatives Mr Benjamin Chaha have been arrested also and taken to Bonny Camp on the Victoria Island, which is believed to be the operational headquarters of the new military government.

Shagari Reportedly Arrested

NC311204 Paris AFP in English 1200 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Paris, Dec 31 (AFP) — Nigerian President Shehu Shagari was arrested together with most ministers and some parliamentarians in the military coup in Lagos early today, diplomatic sources here said. Among parliamentarians arrested were the speakers of the Senate and the National Assembly.

The Constitution of 1979 had been suspended, the sources said. The Nigerian people was being kept informed of developments by a military spokesman who went on the air every 15 minutes, according to the sources.

Vice President 'Taken Away'

AB311600 Lagos NAN in English 1540 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Lagos, Dec 31 (NAN) — The vice president, Dr. Alex Ekwueme, and the speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Benjamin Chaha, were taken away from their residences at about 3 a.m. and 4.00 a.m. this morning by a lorry load of armed military men led by an Army colonel, according to sources at their residences.

NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) investigations indicate that the military operations started at about 2.30 this morning when the vice president was whisked away from his Ikoyi Crescent residence by soldiers who then headed for the house of the speaker.

NAN correspondents who visited the vice president's residence, were told by mobile policemen at the gate, "The vice president is not in."

Efforts to reach the chief justice of the Federation, Mr. Justice George Sowemimo, whose residence is adjacent to the vice president's proved abortive as the gateman who went in to tell the chief justice that pressmen were around came back and said, "Oga [the boss] is still sleeping." This was about 11.50 a.m.

All over Lagos, people were seen in small groups discussing the early morning announcement of the change in government. The traffic to Lagos on Eko Bridge this morning was heavy as

checking of cars continued and soldiers ordered car owners to open their boots. Along the marina, the soldiers blocked the access road leading to State House marina and the official residence of the Senate president was cordoned off.

NAN reporters who visited the radio station at Ikoyi report that the two gates to the radio house were manned by a sizeable number of soldiers with armoured vehicles. Soldiers at the National Television Authority on Victoria Island turned back staff who had come to report for duty.

At the 1,004 Residence [housing estate] for members of the National Assembly, several legislators stood outside their flats discussing in groups, while others were seen driving out of the complex. The general atmosphere in Lagos is calm with market activities at Ebute Ero and Oyingbo still in swing for the new year.

The general secretary of the Customs and Excise and Immigration Staff Union, Mr. Bernard Odulana, has called on members of the union to support the military government. In a statement in Lagos today, Mr. Odunlana called on customs and immigration officers at the borders and airports to follow the instruction of the new government that no politician should be allowed to escape from the country.

Justice Minister 'Being Sought'

AB030950 Lagos NAN in English 0945 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Ibadan, Jan 3 (NAN) — The Oyo police command today included the name of former minister of justice, Chief Richard Akinjide, as one of those being sought by them. He was given up till noon today to show up along with Chief Adisa Akinloye, chairman of the banned NPN [National Party of Nigeria] who was yet to show up after the 9 a.m. deadline given him by the police today.

Meanwhile, three others being sought by the police beat the 9 a.m. deadline early today. They are Dr. Omololu Olunloyo's deputy, Alhaji Olatunji Mohammed, Alhaji Busari Adelakun, the strongman of Ibadan politics, and Mr Adewale Thompson who as chief [words indistinct] commissioner for justice.

NAN Presents 'Situation Reports' After Overthrow

31 December

AB311540 Lagos NAN in English 1531 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Lagos, Dec 31 (NAN) — Situation reports from parts of the country have been received in Lagos following the overthrow of the government of President Shehu Shagari in what a military spokesman, Brig. Sani Abacha, today described as a bloodless and painstaking operation.

A correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) in Minna reports that the former governor of Niger, Alhaji Awwal Ibrahim has started packing his belongings out of the Government House in conformity with a military order to that effect.

A reliable source close to Government House, told NAN that immediately after the radio announcement of the coup, Alhaji Awwal ordered that his property be conveyed to his family house at Suleja.

According to the announcement, all officials living in government quarters should vacate them within seven days and hand over the keys to the nearest police stations.

The NAN correspondent also reports that in most parts of the town, normal business activities were going on while in some areas people gathered round radio sets listening to latest announcements.

Reports from Sokoto indicate that people in the state capital were going about their normal businesses.

NAN correspondent who went to the Government House in Sokoto this morning met the usual police guards at the gate chatting away as if nothing had happened.

The former governor, Dr. Garba Nadama, his former deputy, Alhaji Muhammadu Bachaka, were reported to be still in the state capital while the speaker, Alhaji Abubakar Mainasarawa Zagga left for his home town, Zagga at the weekend.

When the correspondent visited the personal residence of Alhaji Shehu Shagari the usual mobile police unit was seen guarding the house.

In Ibadan, the situation is reported to be calm as most of the junior officers at the Agodi garrison are going about their normal duties.

NAN correspondent who was at the garrison this morning reports that some senior officers were holding a closed door meeting.

Meanwhile, the former Oyo governor, Dr. Omololu Olunloyo held a scheduled end of the year news conference at 9.00 a.m. at the executive chambers, and confirmed his knowledge of the coup.

Dr. Olunloyo, who came into the conference without the usual police sirens and escort told reporters: "I may have to run for my dear life if the need arises. I had to come to the conference here this morning to dispel speculations that I have been kidnapped or placed under arrest," he added.

From Yola, NAN correspondent reports that the Gongola State Broadcasting Corporation and the [word indistinct] are being heavily guarded by armed men while in other parts of the town people are going about their normal businesses.

Most of those interviewed by the correspondent said the change of government was overdue.

Reports from Kano also indicate that all was quiet in most parts of the state capital as well as the private residence of the governor, Sabo Bakin Zuwo.

All activities at the Malam Aminu International Airport have been suspended as armed soldiers have taken up positions at strategic places.

The reports also say that all media houses in the state capital were being guarded while lorry loads of soldiers patrolled the major streets.

The commander of the 7th Mechanised Brigade of the Nigerian Army Sokoto, Brig. Mohammed Sani Sami has directed former governor Garba Nadama and the speaker of the state assembly to report at the Government House immediately.

In a special broadcast over the state radio, Brig. Sani Sami also directed all political appointees to remain in their residences until further notice.

The broadcast, which came at about 12 noon today said you are by now aware of the new development in the country. The military has taken over the administration. The brigade commander said that the Sokoto International Airport and all the country's borders, would remain closed pending further announcements from Lagos.

Meanwhile, soldiers have been posted to public buildings in the state capital to ensure that law and order were maintained.

From Benue, a NAN correspondent reports that the situation in Makurdi has been calm since the announcement of the coup.

At the Air Force base and the brigade headquarters of the Army, officers and men of the Armed Forces were seen going about their normal duties although security at the gates had been tightened.

Reports from Ilorin say that the situation in the town is calm and people go about their normal business.

NAN correspondent reports that people were seen in groups discussing the change of government.

In Abeokuta the acting military commander of the 31 Field Artillery Brigade, Lt.-Col. Abdul-Kareem Adisa told NAN that his command was caught unwares by the military coup today. He said that the command heard the news of the take-over on the radio.

When contacted, the former military head of state, General Obasanjo, expressed surprise at the coup.

A NAN correspondent in Port Harcourt reports that the river's capital has remained calm since the announcement of the military take-over.

There were no officials in the Government House while there were only a few armed soldiers and security men at the entrance.

A few armed soldiers were also at the Radio Rivers F.M. Two, where an official of the station told NAN that they had stopped normal programmes while Radio Rivers One, continued with its normal programmes.

Generally, the people in Port Harcourt have continued with their normal businesses as if nothing has happened.

The correspondent reports that taxi cabs and commercial buses have continued to ply their normal routes while passengers were seen travelling home for the New Year celebration.

Reports by NAN correspondents in Kaduna, Enugu, Owerri and Calabar all indicate that people are going about their normal businesses.

In Enugu, however, major streets were reported to be virtually deserted with only a few police check-points.

In Lagos, NAN correspondents observed that the situation remained calm and business activities going on normally.

At the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, hundreds of passengers were stranded most of whom said that their tickets were confiscated by officials of the Nigeria Airways.

1 January

AB011642 Lagos NAN in English 1605 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Lagos, Jan 1 (NAN) — The news of the change of government in the country was received with joy in Kaduna environs yesterday. People went about their normal businesses, but in some department stores shoppers were ordered out before the normal closing time following the presence of armed soldiers in the stores.

A former governor of the state, Alhaji Abdulkadir Balarabe Musa, described the coup as inevitable in Nigeria for the sake of protecting the nation and the welfare of the people. Alhaji Balarabe said that the people wanted to change the government through a democratic election last year but that the change was made impossible because of a lack of humanity in the political leadership.

In Maiduguri, the whereabouts of the former governor, his deputy, the speaker of the state house of assembly are still unknown. Armed soldiers were guarding the main gate of the Government House. A correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) in Maiduguri said that some soldiers were seen ordering government vehicles back into the Government House. Normal business activities, however, went on in the town yesterday.

In Benin, only a few soldiers were seen moving about in the Bendel capital since the announcement of the military take-over.

The whereabouts of the state governor, Mr Osaigbovo Ogbemudia is unknown but sources close to the Government House said that he travelled out of the state capital on Friday. The Government House remained relatively calm yesterday with only four un-armed policemen keeping guard at the entrance. The Benin airport has been closed and the main entrance was being manned by airport security men. Commercial activities in the state capital, remained normal yesterday and today.

In Bauchi, there were expressions of joy on many faces as people gathered in groups, discussing the change of government. traders in some of the commercial areas of the Bauchi metropolis, who had earlier opened for business, hurriedly closed their stalls for fear of a possible outbreak of violence. The general atmosphere in the town is, however, calm and no incident has been recorded. Army personnel are guarding strategic government establishments in the state. The establishments include the former governors and the deputy governors lodges, the N.T.A. [Nigerian Television Authority]and the Bauchi Broadcasting Corporation

The ousted acting governor Adamu Tafawa Balewa, is said to have travelled to his home town at Tafawa Balewa. Alhaji Adamu took over the governance of the state two weeks ago when the former governor, Alhaji Abubakar Tatari Ali, went on a 30-day leave. Sources close to the Government House in Bauchi told NAN that the former governor had since gone abroad.

The whereabouts of speaker Garba Noma is, however, unknown. NAN correspondent who called at his house yesterday reported that the doors were locked and that some guards found at the compound said that Alhaji Garba left his house on Friday for an undisclosed destination and had not returned. Ousted legislators were also seen packing out their belongings from their official quarters.

Meanwhile tomorrow has been declared a public holiday in the state.

In Ogun, streets in Abeokuta were deserted yesterday as early as 7.30 a.m. in observance of the curfew between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. in all parts of the country. Although there was supposed to be watchnight services all churches were closed. Soldiers were stationed in strategic areas of the town. The Ogun former deputy governor, Chief Sesan Soluade yesterday started packing out from Government House, Abeokuta, following the military coup.

The acting brigade commander of the 15 Mechanised Infantry Brigade of the Nigerian Army, Yola, Lt Col J.P. Okiti, has appealed to the people in the state to go peacefully about their normal duties without fear of molestation.

In a radio broadcast on the state radio station yesterday, Lt Col Okiti said that the take-over of the government by the Army was for the good of all. He called on the law enforcement agents to cooperate with the new administration and make sure that all the directives given from Lagos were implemented.

In Akure, the Ondo State capital, normal business had been going on uninterrupted, since the news of the coup. The Akure main market and other commercial areas were open to customers yesterday. There was, however, conflicting reports about the whereabouts of Governor Adekunle Aaja[illegible]. Some of the governor's aides told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) in Akure that the governor was away to Otun-Ekiti, the home town of his deputy, to perform a religious function but the securitymen at the Government House denied knowledge of the governor's absence.

The deputy commissioner of the Ondo police command, Mr R.A. Salau, said that no official instruction had been received from Lagos but that the state was peaceful. He said that he had directed all the stations under his command to be alert and ensure that there was no breakdown of law and order.

The former governor of Sokoto, Dr Garba Nadama and his deputy Alhaji Mahamadu Bachaka, as well as deputy speaker of the state assembly, Alhaji Tambari Dingyadi yesterday reported at the Government House as directed by the brigade commander, Brig. Mohammed Sani Sami.

Military sources told a correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that Brig. Sami met briefly with them at the Government House and later drove out with them. They were also expected to report at the Government House today according to the sources. Speaker Abubakar Mainassara Zaga, who had gone to his town for the week-end is yet to be back in the state capital. Police guards at the residence of Dr Nadama at Barth Road had been withdrawn. Also withdrawn was his aide de camp. [sentence as received]

The general situation in the state capital remains calm as people continue to go about their normal businesses.

In Benue, the Government House, Makurdi, is now being guarded by armed soldiers.

The whereabouts of former Governor Aper Aku is not known, but unconfirmed reports said that he had been arrested by soldiers. An Army officer at the headquarters of the 31 Airborne Brigade, Makurdi, who declined to be identified, told NAN: "No comments about Mr Aku's whereabouts for now."

Armed soldiers are also guarding the premises of the N.T.A. speaker of the State House of Assembly, Mr Joseph Bossua, were said to have travelled home. [sentence as received]

Ilorin, capital of Kwara is calm and former Governor Cornelius Adebayo was said to have travelled abroad.

In Ibadan soldiers were guarding the Government House, residence of the former state government, Dr Omolulu Lounloyo, the state secretary, the Central Bank, the NTA and the FRON [Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria]. Military vehicles equipped with communication gadgets also parade the streets.

The whereabout of Dr Olunloyo, who addressed a news conference yesterday at the executive chamber of the governor's office, is unknown.

In Kano, former governor Sabo Bakin Zuwo, his deputy, Alhaji Wada Abubakar, and former Governor Abdu Kawakin Tofa, were arrested by armed soldiers yesterday. They were arrested at their private residence and kept at the Aminu Kano Hall of the Government House. People in Kano metropolis are now going about their normal businesses.

Reactions, Conditions in Federation's States

'Currency Trafficking' in Lagos

AB011658 Lagos NAN in English 1621 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Lagos, Jan 1 (NAN) — Currency trafficking continued to flourish today in Lagos despite the warning by the head of state, Maj-Gen Muhammadu Buhari, that the military government would not tolerate such a practice.

NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) correspondents, who visited the Bristol Hotel area in Lagos, saw about 80 traffickers soliciting for currency exchange. One of the traffickers told NAN that he would exchange one American dollar for 2 naira 80 kobo while another offered to change the dollar for 3 naira 20 kobo.

At the 1004 residence of National Assembly members, some legislators were packing out their belongings in private and hired commercial vehicles. The situation at the complex remained calm, but a source said that some of the legislators started to move yesterday to their constituencies, following the change of government.

At the Bar Beach, a few hundred of picnickers were relaxing while others were busy haggling to buy sea food.

Three armoured vehicles were seen at the Federal Government Guest House on Victoria Island, Lagos. Meanwhile, armed soldiers are still at some strategic points, checking vehicles.

NAN on Lagos Situation

AB021620 Lagos NAN in English 1616 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Lagos, Jan 2 (NAN) — Traffic was relatively light in Lagos today as checking of vehicles by armed soldiers continued in the federal capital, a correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) has reported.

A number of specific areas under armed guard include the Bridge, the federal government guest house at Victoria Island, the Federal Secretariat in Ikoyi, and the 1004 Residence for legislators; the stretch from the Obalende end of Dodan Barracks to the "Mobile Police No. 2 Squadron" headquarters on Feffi Street in Ikoyi has been cordoned off.

Two mobile policemen who attempted to remove part of the road-block to Dodan Barracks were beaten up by soldiers while onlookers cheered.

Household items like beddings, cutlery and furniture belonging to the National Assembly Welfare Management were extracted from the property being taken away by some legislators at the 1004 flats by soldiers guarding the premises.

A former legislator told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that he was surprised at the intensive checking, adding that they were complying with the order which gave them seven days to pack out of the quarters.

The NPN Secretariat along Keffi is under lock and key, while the party flags have been pulled down.

CVU [expansion unknown] drivers were staying idle at the Federal Secretariat while the civil servants who had turned up loitered about and chatted in small groups.

Communication within and outside the country remains dead, on the third day of the change of government.

Anambra Capital 'Seems Quiet'

AB311506 Lagos NAN in English 1440 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Enugu, Dec 31 (NAN) — All of Enugu seems quiet since today's morning Radio Nigeria broadcast of a military takeover.

Up till today's noon there have been no signs of disquiet and major Enugu streets seem deserted with few police check points.

There are no signs of military activities in the city and the entry points of the Army's 32d Division in the city seem normal.

There is no Army check point seen in Enugu at the time of this report.

Governor's Residence Under Guard

AB021615 Lagos NAN in English GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Enugu, Jan 2 (NAN) — The private residence of former Anambra governor, Chief C. Anoho and his predecessor in office, Chief Nwobodo, are under military guard, a NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) correspondent has reported.

Soldiers guarding Chief Onoh's residence told NAN that the former governor was under protective custody, adding that visitors were not allowed to see him. The former deputy governor of the state as well as ex-commissioners have vacated their official residences.

Bendel Capital Quiet

AB311412 Lagos NAN in English 1345 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Benin, December 31 (NAN) — There have been scanty military movements within the Bendel capital since the announcement of the military take-over this morning, correspondents of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) reported.

The whereabout of the state governor, Mr. Osaigbovo Ogbemudia is [word indistinct] not known but sources close to the government [word indistinct] travelled out of the state capital yesterday.

The Government House remained relatively calm at noon with about four unarmed policemen keeping guard at the entrance.

The Benin airport was closed and the main entrance manned by airport security men.

The Army barracks situated at the Ikpoba Hill appeared quiet as some soldiers, mostly unarmed milled within one hundred meters from the main entrance.

Security at the entrance to (?4th) Infantry Brigade Headquarters appeared normal, NAN further reported.

Meanwhile, commercial activities in the state capital remained normal as commercial vehicle drivers, traders and workers went about their normal duties.

Situation Remains Normal
AB011055 Lagos NAN in English 1050 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Benin, Jan 1 (NAN) — Situation in the Bendel capital, Benin, still remained normal today since the inception of the new military administration yesterday, NAN correspondents who went round the city this morning report.

Armed military personnel were seen manning the airport gate, brigade heaquarters, Radio Bendel transmitting house at Ikpoba slope, while the Government House was devoid of military and police presence.

The correspondents also report that the private residence of the former state governor, Mr. Samuel Ogbemudia, was also devoid of military and police presence while a few people were seen on their way to the church in the usual spirit of the New Year celebration.

Benue Governor Arrested
AB011300 Lagos NAN in English 1245 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Makurdi, Jan 1 (NAN) — Government House, Makurdi, is now being guarded by armed soldiers following yesterday's take-over of government by the Armed Forces, NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) correspondents in the Benue capital have reported. The whereabouts of the former occupant of the house, ex-Governor Aper Aku, is not known, but unconfirmed reports said the he had been arrested by soldiers in the town.

A senior Army officer at the headquarters of the 31st Airborne Brigade, N.A. [Nigerian Army], Makurdi, who declined to be identified, told NAN: "No comments about Mr Aku's whereabouts for now."

Armed soldiers are also guarding the premises of the N.T.A. [Nigerian Television Authority], Makurdi, and a few other selected premises in the town.

A NAN correspondent who visited the official residences of the former deputy governor, Alhaji Sule Iyaji, and the former speaker of the state house of assembly, Mr Joseph Bossua, was told that they had travelled home.

Elsewhere in Makurdi, people were going about their businesses peacefully.

Benue's 'Caretaker Governor' Speaks
AB020945 Lagos NAN in English 0915 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Makurdi, Jan 2 (NAN) — The commander of the 31st Brigade of the Nigerian Army, Makurdi, Brig. Sunday Adenihun, today ordered former commissioners, members of boards and parastatals in Benue to surrender the keys to their official quarters and other government properties in their possession to the new government in the state on Wednesday this week.

In a radio and television broadcast last night, Brig. Adenihun also ordered former speaker and members of the state House of Assembly to surrender similar properties in their possession on Thursday, and he said that all the keys and properties should be surrendered to the permanent secretary, Ministry of Works and Housing.

The commander, who said that he was a caretaker governor of the state pending the appointment of a substantive governor, stated that he had converted the office of the former state deputy governor to his temporary office. He urged citizens of the state not to panic as a result of the change of government adding that the situation was under control.

18 Former Politicians 'Wanted'
AB030755 Lagos NAN in English 0750 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Makurdi, Jan 3 (NAN) — The commander of the 31st Air-Borne Brigade of the Nigerian Army, Makurdi, Brig. Sunday Adenihuf, yesterday declared the ousted Benue governor, Mr. Aper Aku, his former deputy, Alhaji Sule Iyaji and 18 other former politicians from the state as wanted persons. The 18 persons included the speaker, deputy speaker, majority [words indistinct] assembly as well as the 12 commissioners in the state cabinet and the two ministers in the federal cabinet from the state.

In a statement, the commander [word indistinct] them to surrender themselves to the nearest police station within 24 hours in their interest and urged persons who knew their whereabouts to report to the police. He warned that any persons harbouring them or withholding information about their whereabouts would be severely dealt with if discovered.

The commander reminded the people of the state that political parties had been banned and that it was an offence to display party symbols or photographs of party leaders on vehicles, public and private buildings.

Also yesterday, Brig. Adenihun held a meeting with permanent secretaries in the state during which he urged them to instill a sense of discipline and hardwork in the (?civil) service. According to him, indiscipline and laxity will not be tolerated among (?civil) servants.

Borno Assemblymen Under Guard
AB021142 Lagos NAN in English 1130 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Maiduguri, Jan. 2 (NAN) — Most members of the former

Borno House of Assembly were still in their residences under heavy military guard, a NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) investigation revealed. A NAN correspondent who visited legislators were, however, allowed to leave their quarters on the submission of their vehicle particulars and membership cards. Efforts to talk to some of the governor and deputy were still unknown. [sentence as received]

The state capital still remained calm.

Situation in Cross River Capital
AB311505 Lagos NAN in English 1430 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Calabar, Dec 31 (NAN) — Normal business in Calabar, the Cross River state capital, has been going on uninterrupted, in spite of the news of a military coup in the country.

A correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) in Calabar reported that the Calabar main market, known as BBT market [as received] and other commercial houses were opened to customers doing their shopping.

A source at the Government House, Calabar, the official residence of the governor, told NAN that Chief Donal Dick Etiebet and his family were out of town. The source, however, declined to comment on the whereabouts of the state governor.

An affected political appointee who resigned his top civil service job to take up a commissionership post interviewed said there is nothing I can do. [sentence as received] I can't go back to government work, I will take to private business.

At the state police headquarters, neither the commissioner of police nor the assistant commissioner of police in charge of operations could be reached for comments.

At the Calabar international airport, armed soldiers were seen guarding it. The airport manager could not be reached for comments.

Cross River Politicians To Report
AB021442 Lagos NAN in English 1435 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Calabar, Jan 2 (NAN) — All former political office holders in Cross River, who were in office from October, 1979, are to report at the headquarters of 13 Airportable Brigade, Nigerian Army, Calabar, before 12 noon today, the brigade commander, Brig. Peter Adomokai, has ordered.

In a statement in Calabar, Brig. Adomokai said that those affected include former state governors and their deputies, all former speakers of the state House of Assembly, ministers and commissioners.

Others are all former secretaries to the government, political advisers, state and federal legislators and former chairmen of political parties.

Former Imo Governor Reports
AB021710 Lagos NAN in English 1640 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Owerri, Jan 2 (NAN) The former Imo governor, Chief Sam Mbakwe, and eight of his commissioners have reported to the police, the state commissioner of police, Mr Fidelis Oyakhilome, said in Owerri today.

Mr Oyakhilome told newsmen that the command was carrying out instructions in respect of former political office holders in the state and that "adequate steps" had been taken to ensure that those concerned did not escape. He said that some government property had been handed over by former political appointees some of whom had vacated their offical residences.

Mr Oyakhilome said that the police had ensured strict maintenance of law and order, as well as compliance with the dusk-to-dawn curfew.

In a statement later, the police ordered members of the last civilian government to hand over their official quarters to the chief architect, Ministry of Works and Transport. They include the former secretary to the state government, the former speaker of the House of Assembly and former commissioners. The police also directed all political appointees to surrender officials vehicles in their possession.

Kaduna Governor's Whereabouts Unknown
AB311205 Lagos NAN in English 1150 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Kaduna, Dec. 31 (NAN) — The whereabouts of former Governor Lawal Kaita of Kaduna is not known since the early hours of today following a military take-over. A NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) correspondent who visited Government House at about 8 a.m. reports that there was complete absence of people, while the entrance barrier had been removed. Police guards at the entrance were also not in their post.

At the State House, Kawo, near Kaduna, armed soldiers had cordoned off the building. Both the federal and state radio stations in the city have not come on air since the break of day. Also being heavily guarded is the headquarters of the First Mechanised Division of the Nigerian Army.

The NAN correspondent in the state capital reports that most people were taken unawares by the military take-over. Unsuspecting residents went about their normal businesses, while those that first heard of the coup stood in groups. Traffic on the busiest street, Ahmadu Bello Way, was light.

'Joy' Noted in Capital
AB311410 Lagos NAN in English 1335 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Kaduna, Dec 31 (NAN) — The news of the overthrow of the government of President Shehu Shagari was received with joy by virtually all the residents of Kaduna and its environs.

Correspondents of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA who went round the state capital at about noon today report that people went about their normal businesses. Shoppers went in large numbers to department stores preparatory to tomorrow's New Year celebration.

However the shoppers in Kingsway, and Leventis supermarkets were ordered out of the shops before the normal closing time [passage indistinct] Balarabe told NAN that it was hoped that a change could come about through a democratic election this year but unfortunately [passage indistinct] lack of humanity in the political leadership.

[Passage indistinct] Armed Forces have come to neutralize everyone and expect the change, he said.

The former governor who was impeached in his first term in office, [words indistinct] that so far [words indistinct] is that the action of the military will stop at least the consolidation of the mindless civilian leadership and further suffering of the people [passage indistinct]

Former Kano Governors Arrested

AB011340 Lagos NAN in English 1325 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Kano, Jan 1 (NAN) — Former Governor Sabo Bakin Zuwo and his deputy, Alhaji Wada Abubakar, and former Governor Abdu Dawakim Tofa, have been arrested by armed soldiers yesterday afternoon, NAN correspondent reports. All of them were arrested at their private residences and kept at the Aminu Kano Hall of the Government House.

People in Kano metropolis are now going about their normal businesses.

Niger Governor 'Packing'

AB311125 Lagos NAN in English 1120 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Minna, Dec 31 (NAN) Governor Awal Ibrahim of Niger has started packing his belongings from the Government House following a military order which overthrew the civilian government today.

A reliable source close to the Government House said that immediately after the radio announcement that the Federal Government had been overthrown by the military, Alhaji had orderd that his loads be conveyed to his family house at Suleja.

According to the announcement, all officials living in government quarters should pack away within seven days, and hand over keys to the nearest police stations.

When newsmen visited the Government House, all official cars were seen parked in a place with some loads in them.

Meanwhile, many people were seen clustered in groups discussing the latest development in the country.

Correspondents of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA report that in most part of the town normal business activities were going on, while in some areas people gathered around radio sets listening to the latest annoucements.

In some other areas of the town, many people were seen jubilating over the coup announcement.

Government House Taken Over

AB011105 Lagos NAN in English 1100 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Minna, Jan 1 (NAN) — Soldiers have completely taken over Minna Government House. A NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) correspondent who visited the state house gathered that the soldiers were ordered to [word indistinct] after it had been learnt that the former governor, Alhaji Awwal Ibrahim, and other officials within the premises had packed out. About three lorry loads of armed men were seen in the premises, while soldiers armed to the teeth were on guard.

Meanwhile, National Party of Nigeria (NPN) and the Nigerian People's Party (NPP) had started pulling down their party's flags and other materials containing the emblems of the parties. Also, billboards containing the pictures of Alhaji Awwal Ibrahim and other political leaders in the state had been burnt down by some unknown persons.

However, no arrests had been made as a result of the curfew imposed the new Federal Government. The situation in the state remains normal while newspaper vendors are having bumper sales as readers were rushing to buy newspapers to know that latest development. Most papers were selling at one naira per copy.

Looters Reported in Minna

AB011120 Lagos NAN in English 1045 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Minna, Jan 1 (NAN) — There was a stir at the Minna main market today as people described as looters tried to force down prices of items and also loot commodities.

Eyewitness sources told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA that the looters, who were scattered all over the market and who were taking advantage of yesterday's change of government, could not however make away with any goods because of the timely arrival of the police.

The sources further told NAN that many confused traders on seeing the police started selling their goods at drastically reduced prices.

Some teenagers at the market side who were interviewed told NAN that they bought packets of medium-size Omo detergents at 30 kobo each instead of 1.50 naira.

The correspondent reports that most shops remain closed as the traders deserted the market.

The police could not be reached immediately for comments.

'Unpatriotic Elements' Warned
AB021300 Lagos NAN in English 1200 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Minna, Jan 2 (NAN) — The Niger police command said yesterday night that some unpatriotic elements were trying to entice young persons to demonstrate along the streets of Minna inspite of the military government's order against demonstrations [words indistinct] the state commissioner of police, Alhaji Raheem Laleye. The command warned the misguided youths to desist from any unlawful act or be dealt with summarily. The command appealed to citizens to cooperate with law enforcement [word indistinct] and obey the 7.00 p.m.-6. 00 a.m. curfew order.

'Mixed Feelings' in Ogun
AB311050 Lagos NAN in English 1040 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Abeokuta, Dec. 31 (NAN) — Hundreds of people in Ogun were today seen in groups discussing the news that the Federal Government has been overthrown in a bloodless coup. NAN correspondents who went round Abeokuta, the capital, reported that there were mixed feelings about the coup. Whereas some people said it was overdue, others believed it was unnecessary. However, the city is calm, as all the markets were functioning and taxi operators were going about their normal duties.

At the residence of the governor, Chief Aisi Onabanjo (?said) nobody was allowed entry. Police on guard told NAN that the governor was attending to some official matters.

At the Lafenwa Army barracks of the 30th Armoured Brigade, soldiers were seen going about their normal duties. No civilian was, however, allowed entry. The state radio and television OGBC [Ogun Broadcasting Corporation] and OGTV [Ogun Television] were transmitting their normal weekend programme.

Coup Caught Commander Unaware
AB311350 Lagos NAN in English 1345 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Rebeokuta, Dec 31 (NAN) — The acting military commander of the 31st Field Artillery Brigade, Lt Col Abdul-Karim Adisa, today said that his command was caught unaware by the military coup that overthrew the Federal Government. In an interview with NAN correspondent Tye Barrak, Lt Col Adisa said that the command heard the news of the take-over on the radio.

Asked to speak on the next line of action by his unit, the commander said we are acting [as received] for instructions from Lagos. However, when NAN visited the residence of the Ogun governor, policemen on guard were not sure of his whereabouts. Some said he had travelled to his home town, Ijebu-Ode.

In an encounter with the former military head of state, General Obasanjo, he expressed surprise at the coup.

At the major motor works, people were seen jubilating over the overthrow. [Words indistinct] Employers Association of Nigeria, Alhaji Fatayi Yusuf, said that all his members could this night celebrate the coup. He said that he was sure that the military regime was the alternative government which would bring about the price of vehicles and spare parts. [sentence as received]

Up soldiers, up soldiers, we shall drink and quench today, Ahoyi Yusuf added.

In another interview with Lagos-bound passengers at the motor park, one of them, Mr Kehinee James, said that I believe the Army is our last hope.

Bureaucrats Locked Out
AB030925 Lagos NAN in English 0920 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Abeokuta, Jan 3 (NAN) — Some Ogun civil servants who arrived late for work today were barred from entering the secretariat and the governor's office. NAN investigations revealed that the late comers were locked out on the order of the acting commander of the 31st Artillery Brigade, Abeokuta, Lt. Col Abdul-Karim Adisa. Col. Adisa, who was seen going round government establishments, said that the action was necessary to ensure that workers were in their seats. The acting brigade commander said that the head of service has been directed to compile the list of the late comers and take the necessary decision. The head of service, Chief Abayomi Oduntan, has already requested that the list should be sent to his office while the culprits would resume duty meanwhile.

Former Governor Comments
AB021040 Lagos NAN in English 1030 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Abeokuta, Jan. 2 (NAN) — The Ogun former governor, Chief Bisi Onabanjo, said in Abeokuta today that the military take-over was not unexpected.

Cornered by newsmen at the governor's office, Chief Onabanjo pointed out that the way the last elections went was enough to make anyone expect military intervention. He however said that nobody expected the military take-over so soon. Chief Onabanjo told newsmen that he was determined to return to poultry farming.

Yesterday, the acting commander of the 31st Artillery Brigade, Abeokuta, Lt.-Col Abdul Karim Adisa, summoned some political office holders and a few other people in sensitive positions to appear before him this morning. As the people summoned came in their private vehicles. [sentence as received]

At the meeting with the acting commander, an Army captain whose identity was not disclosed ordered newsmen out saying that gentlemen of the press, I am sorry you would not be allowed here if we will see you at all, I think there will be more opportuned discussion for it. [sentence as received] The captain said that whoever wanted to know the purpose of the meeting should visit the brigade headquarters for briefing.

Normal Business in Ondo's Capital
AB311038 Lagos NAN in English 1025 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Akure, Dec. 31 (NAN) — Normal business in Akure, the Ondo state capital has been going on uninterrupted, in spite of the news of a military coup broadcast today. The Akure markets and other commercial areas were opened to customers who were doing their last-minute shoping to usher in the new year.

There are, however, conflicting reports about the destination of Governor Adekunle Ajasin. Some aides of the governor told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) in Akure today that the governor was away to Otun-Ekiti, the hometown of his deputy, Dr Falaye Aina, to perform a religious function, while the security men at the Government House denied knowledge of the governor's absence. When contacted, the deputy commissioner of Ondo State Police Command, Mr. R.A. Salau, said though no official instruction had been received from Lagos, the state was peaceful and calm.

He told NAN that he had directed all the stations under his command to be alert and ensure that there was no breakdown in law and order.

Oyo Capital Calm
AB311113 Lagos NAN in English 1100 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Ibadan, Dec 31 (NAN) — In Ibadan, the situation is very calm as most of the junior officers at the Agodi garrisons in Ibadan seem unaware of the development in Lagos.

A NAN correspondent who was at the garrisons this morning reported that about six senior officers were seen in a closed door meeting.

One of the officers who came out ordered the NAN correspondent out of the premises, wondering why it had taken the [words indistinct] before it thought it fit to speak with the Army. "Where have you all been all these days?" he queried.

Meanwhile Governor Omololu Olunlyo held a scheduled end of the year press conference today in Ibadan confirming his knowledge of the coup in Lagos but maintaining that he was unruffled.

The governor, who came into the conference without the usual police sirens, told reporters: "I may have to run for my dear life if the need arises. I had to come to the conference here this morning to dispel speculations that I have been kidnapped or placed under any arrest."

Ibadan Remains Calm
AB011455 Ibadan Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] The situation in Ibadan remains calm and people are congratulating one another over the new administration in the country. Most newspaper vendors are making quick money as they sell the various newspapers for 50 kobos each and in some places some of the dailies are being sold for 1 naira.

At the residence of the former governor of the state, Dr Omolulu Olunloyo, a police escort guarding the place told a Radio Nigeria correspondent that the whereabouts of the former governor was not known. Only his old mother was around.

At the police headquarters, Eleyele, no politicians had yet reported to the police as directed by the new administration. At Olutameye and Gege markets, people have been transacting business peacefully and in the University of Ibadan, things were normal and people were seen trooping out of the church after the New Year service.

Meanwhile, the Nigerian Army in Ibadan, Oyo State, has advised all civil servants to resume their normal duties tomorrow. A statement signed today by Colonel Bode Aduwole of the Army public relations said that all civil servants are assured of their safety. The statement further said that any problem in their departments should be reported to the [words indistinct] Division, Nigerian Army, Ogodi, Ibadan.

Oyo Governors Ordered To Report
AB021000 Lagos NAN in English 0920 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Ibadan, Jan. 2 (NAN) — The Oyo police command today ordered the two former civilian governors of the state to show up at its headquarters in Ibadan at 12 noon [1100 GMT] today. The two ex-governor's are Chief Bola Ige who ruled for (?1979)-83 and Dr Omololu Olunoyo who took over from him on October 1, 1983.

According to a statement signed by the police public relations officer, Mr Adekunle Adekoya, the two ex-governors are to report along with their commissioners, advisers and the secretaries to their government.

Former Oyo Governors Report
AB021647 Ibadan Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Excerpts] The two former governors of Oyo State, Chief Bola Ige and Chief Omolulu Olunloyo, today showed up at the police headquarters in Eleyele, Ibadan. It was in comformity with a directive issued by the new head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari.

On arrival at the headquarters, the ex-governors reported to the state commissioner of police, Alhaji Nuhu Aliyu, who briefed them on the situation in the country. Others who have shown up so far include the former Minister of Education Chief Sunday Afolabi and some former commissioners in the Oyo executive.

At exactly 1300 this afternoon, a military captain escorted the two former governors out of the police commissioner's office and were driven away in a heavily guarded Army landrover. They were driven to the military officers mess, at Agodi. Meanwhile,

a statement from the police says that the former chairman of the defunct NPN [National Party of Nigeria], Chief Adisa Akinloye, should report to the police between today and tomorrow.

Plateau Demonstrations Reported

AB021115 Lagos NAN in English 1110 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Jos, Jan. 2 (NAN) — Some of the polling booths used during the last federal elections in Jos metropolis have been pulled down by demonstrators following the announcement last Saturday banning all the political parties in the country. A correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) reports that the demolition started in Chobe area of Jos around noon yesterday. There was a scramble as the demonstrators [words indistinct] of the booths. Some members of the public cheered as the demonstrators chanted, "Change dole, change, dole" (change by all means).

Former Rivers Governor Surrenders

AB011145 Lagos NAN in English 1140 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Port Harcourt, Jan 1 (NAN) — The former governor of Rivers, Chief Melford Okilo, and his deputy chief, Dominic Anucha, have today in Port Harcourt surrendered to the police, the acting commander of the Second Amphibious Brigade, Lt Col Samuel Victor Malu, has said.

Addressing newsmen in Port Harcourt, Lt Col Malu advised the commissioners to do same in their own interest and security. [sentence as received] He said that all law-abiding citizens would be adequately protected and that those who were on essential duties and had cause to move out between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. should collect movement passes from the police headquarters.

Lt Col Malu warned that any person caught interfering with government property would be dealt with, adding that those who had government vehicles should surrender them to the Government House.

Brigadier Addresses Sokoto State

AB311228 Sokoto Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 31 Dec 83

["Special announcement" by Brigadier Mohamed Sani Sami, commander of an unidentified brigade — recorded]

[Text] Fellow Nigerians of Sokoto State: I am sure by now you are fully aware of the new development in the country. The military has taken over the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Citizens of Sokoto State [home state of Shehu Shagari], you are all requested to remain calm and go about your lawful duties. Meanwhile, the dusk to dawn curfew earlier announced from Lagos remains in force throughout the state. No acts of looting, arson, or molestation will be tolerated from any citizen. The Nigerian Army and police will increase their normal vigilance. The Sokoto International Airport as well as all our borders are hereby closed. The former governor, the deputy governor, the speaker of Sokoto State House of Assembly will all report to the Government House immediately. All the former commissioners will remain in their houses in Sokoto until further notice. Further announcement will be made from Lagos. Thank you. God bless you. [announcement repeated in Hausa]

More on Address

AB021456 Lagos NAN in English 1440 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Sokoto, Jan 2 (NAN) — The commander of the 7th Mechanised Brigade of the Nigerian Army, Brig. Mohammed Sani Sami, said yesterday in Sokoto that legislators and commissioners in the state should vacate their official residences and hand over the keys to the commissioner of police.

In a broadcast over NTA [Nigerian Television Authority] Sokoto, Brig. Sami stated that all government vehicles should be packed in their respective offices. [as received] He said that reports reaching him indicated that a number of people had broken the curfew, adding that this would no longer be tolerated.

Brig. Sami said that only ambulances and vehicles belonging to the fire service, NEPA [National Electric Power Authority], media house, as well as other essential government agencies were permitted on the roads between 7 a.m.-6 p.m. He stated that law enforcing agents at road blocks have been instructed to deal with businessmen taking advantage of the present situation to transfer essential commodities to their places.

Brig. Sami reminded political parties in the state that their accounts had been frozen and that they should submit details of such accounts.

Coup Reportedly Welcomed

AB010920 Paris AFP in French 0815 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Gaya (Niger-Nigeria border), 1 Jan (AFP) — According to an AFP correspondent in the Gaya region on the Niger-Nigeria border, the military coup that overthrew the Shehu Shagari regime early Saturday seems to have been welcomed by the people of the northern state of Sokoto.

Those living along the border who can enter and return from Nigeria despite the very tight restrictions on movement which have been imposed by the new Nigerian authorities, have reported that the people of the area have welcomed the news with joy. In some places, popular demonstrations were even organized. These eyewitness reports also speak of the joy expressed on Saturday by the Nigerian community in Niamey when the coup was announced. According to the same border residents, rumor has it that General Yakubu Gowon, former president of the republic (1966-1975), is reported to have fled to Togo. The Nigerian population in particular blamed the regime of President Shagari for its generalized corruption and especially for the rise in prices, which became particularly high over the past 2 years. Thus, they explain, the prices of certain essential goods, as well as tools and spare parts, rose by 300 to 400 percent within 2 years' time.

According to these witnesses, the coup d'etat did not surprise anyone, since rumors of a coup had been circulating in Nigerian military circles for some weeks now.

The AFP correspondent noticed that the military is in strict control of the borders, where only Nigerian nationals returning home are permitted to cross. It has been heard on the Niger side that no passage from Nigeria to Niger has been recorded since 1000 on Saturday. A remarkable thing, according to the Niger border guards, is the fact that the soldiers who have been placed at the Sokoto State frontier do not speak the local dialect, which is Hausa, and were for the most part sent there early Saturday morning from the southern parts of the country. Niger customs officials point out that this move could be explained by the authorities' desire to avoid the favorable granting of entry permits by local border guards, thus ensuring a tight supervision of the borders.

In the short newscasts carried by Radio Lagos every 30 minutes, there have been repeated calls for "vigilance" to prevent "wanted persons" from escaping.

Intensive Checking Under Way

AB021458 Lagos NAN in English 1445 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Sokoto, Jan 2 (NAN) — Intensive checking of vehicles by a combined team of soldiers, police, and immigration officials is being carried out near the boundary of Sokoto State, [home state of former President Shagari], a correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) has reported.

An all-night market adjacent to the Sokoto Army barracks was closed yesterday at 6 p.m., and merry-makers celebrating the New Year were sent home on military orders in observance of the curfew in the country.

Traffic was scant on main streets of Sokoto for a major part of the day without the usual fanfare associated with New Year celebrations, while at Shagari Village, about 56 kilometers away, the general situation was calm as people went about their normal business.

Press, Regime Share 'Almost Same Opinion'

AB021120 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0900 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Press review]

[Text] Most of the Nigerian newspapers today devote their editorial columns to last Saturday's coup in the country which brought Major General Muhammadu Buhari to power. The papers share almost the same opinion with the new military administration.

THE DAILY TIMES agrees with the new head of state in his maiden broadcast to the nation that the task ahead is challenging and Nigerians should not expect miracles. The paper advises that the new administration should evolve both short and long-term strategies so as to revamp the ailing economy. While *THE TIMES* recognizes that the problems are numerous, it believes that the military is capable of containing the situation. In the final analysis, *THE TIMES* suggests that all contracts at both the federal and state levels need to be reviewed (?to save funds), adding that in their efforts to bring the economy back to a better shape, the new government should engage the services of those patriotic Nigerians with proven integrity.

On its part, *THE NATIONAL CONCORD* maintains that it is clear that the Buhari government has a large [words indistinct] public goodwill as a result of the (?suggestion) that the change is for the better. It further stresses that the new government shun all forms of pressures from any quarter and concentrate on the great task of reshaping the nation. *THE CONCORD* suggests that the new administration must track down all the looters of the economy and also work hard by providing food at reasonable prices to all Nigerians.

In its own contribution, *THE DAILY SKETCH* says the Buhari administration should quickly map out its program of action as was the case of Murtala's regime of 1975. However, the paper observes that the task ahead is certainly not easy, but points out that constructive efforts must be geared toward making Nigeria self-reliant.

THE PUNCH, in welcoming the change in government, believes that [words indistinct]. The paper appeals to all Nigerians to cooperate with the new administration.

Also on the new military administration, *THE NIGERIAN STATESMAN* described the coup as inevitable. It further blamed the last civilian administration for mismanaging the economy. *THE STATESMAN*, in welcoming the change of government, says it associates itself with any alternative that will make Nigeria grow and become mature as a nation.

THE GUARDIAN, in its editorial, writes on the need for Nigerians to change their attitude to work as the new year rolls in. The paper views that by doing this, Nigeria's economy could be brought back to normal.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Calls for UN Security Council Meeting

MB030611 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Elisio de Figueiredo, the Angolan ambassador accredited to the United Nations, yesterday handed a letter from Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the president of the People's Republic of Angola, to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar calling for an urgent meeting of the Security Council in light of the deterioration of the situation in southern Angola.

On the same occasion, the Angolan representative to the United Nations handed to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar another message from the Angolan head of state reaffirming the readiness of the People's Republic of Angola to contribute to lasting peace in southern Africa, particularly with regard to solving the Namibian problem. Having pointed out that violent battles were presently being fought between the invading forces and Angolan fighters, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said that our country would not like to see the war assuming greater proportions, with unexpected consequences that may endanger peace and security in the region.

President Meets With SWAPO Leader in Luanda

MB311316 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] The chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, received the leader of SWAPO in audience this morning. The meeting was held at Futungo de Belas in Luanda.

Cooperation Agreements Signed With SRV, Poland

MB030846 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Angola signed two cooperation agreements yesterday, one with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the other with the People's Republic of Poland.

The agreement with Vietnam was signed by Mr (Graciano Amande), Angolan deputy minister of agriculture and forestry, and by Mr (Tran Khai), Vietnamese deputy minister of agriculture. The agreement provides for an increase in cooperation between the two countries in the field of agriculture, particularly in the rice sector. The Vietnamese deputy minister made a 6-day visit to our country, during which he visited several agricultural units and met with Minister of Agriculture Evaristo Domingos Kimba and Minister of Planning Lopo do Nascimento, as well as Comrade Andre Petroff, the secretary of the Central Committee for the Production Sector of the MPLA-Labor Party.

The other agreement was signed with the People's Republic of Poland and deals with the general cooperation between the two countries during 1984. This agreement was signed by Comrade Carlos Fernandes, Angolan secretary of state for cooperation, and Mr Roman Czyzycki, the Polish ambassador to Angola.

These agreements which have been signed come within the framework of the MPLA-Labor Party's policy of training cadres and exchanging technology with other nations.

U.S. 'Hypocritical' on RSA Angola Incursion

MB302040 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] The main culprit for the tense situation in southern Africa and in many other parts of the world is desperately trying to wash its hands as regards the Pretoria aggression against the independent territory of the People's Republic of Angola. The United States has hypocritically expressed concern over the present tense situation created in the southern part of the African Continent by the escalation of aggression carried out by the Pretoria rulers, its principal clients in ideology and armament.

In a statement issued in Washington, the U.S. State Department went as far as to propose to the People's Republic of Angola that it accept the South African version [words indistinct] to the so-called regularization of the conflict, according to which the Angolan people must withold their support for the Namibian people fighting for their liberty. This U.S. position, quoting political observers, constitutes another imperialist maneuver aimed at placing the victim of aggression on the same footing as the aggressor and at forcing the Angolan people to renounce their support for SWAPO.

25 UNITA Members Said Killed in Malanje Province

MB030800 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] The internal enemy, UNITA, is continuing to suffer more defeats and despair, according to its own agents. In Malanje Province, another 25 UNITA counterrevolutionaries were killed by the defense and security forces of the People's Republic of Angola on 25 December 1983 in the areas of (Muta) and (Lucal), Cacuso Municipality. The Angolan forces captured a peasant who had been forced to follow the counterrevolutionaries and who described to us the despair of the bandits.

22-26 December Operations

MB301729 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Another 25 UNITA counterrevolutionaries were killed in hot-pursuit actions carried out by the defense and security forces of Benguela in the areas of Caimbambo, Chongoroi, Balombo, and Catenge between 22 and 26 December. The Angolan fighters captured one counterrevolutionary and a quantity of materiel and military equipment, freed 68 civilians who had been kidnapped by UNITA, and recovered 15 head of cattle stolen from the peasants by the puppets.

Some of the counterrevolutionaries were killed when they tried to ambush a column of civilian trucks carrying foodstuffs for the residents of Caimbambo and Catenge.

The freed civilians and the prisoners taken by the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] described the murderous nature of the counterrevolutionaries and explained that they are in almost complete despair because of the strong actions carried out by FAPLA against the UNITA gangsters in recent months.

In the southern part of the country in the provinces of Huila, Cuando Cubango, and Cunene, fighting continues between FAPLA fighters and the invading South African Army. Fighting continues around the villages of Caiundo, Cubelai, Mulondo, and Cahama, where the Angolan fighters are resisting with tenacity against the invaders, having already since 12 December shot down 10 South African aircraft and destroyed armored cars and heavy artillery pieces and captured other smaller items of war materiel.

RSA Charged With Using CBW in Latest Offensive

MB030730 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] The South African Army, which has been mounting a new offensive against the Angolan people since 10 December 1983 from areas it already occupies in Cunene Province has been using unconventional weapons against the Angolan people, such as toxic and paralyzing gas that can cause biochemical alterations to humans and other living creatures, as well as a U.S.-made weapon, AG-5 [as heard], which can carry nuclear warheads.

In this invasion of Angolan territory, the South African Army is using 3 motorized brigades, 4 artillery groups, 2 battalions of parachutists, MX tanks, AML-90 and AML-60 armored cars, about 100 aircraft, and helicopters and ground forces of unknown numbers.

In recent communiques, the Ministry of Defense has revealed that the clashes are continuing in the areas of Caiundo, Cuvelai, Mulondo, Cahama, and Cassinga, where our valiant fighters are defending their positions with bravery and tenacity.

Communique Says RSA Strikes Hit Civilians

MB011322 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] The Defense Ministry has issued a communique which reached our editorial newsroom yesterday stating that the regular South African Army continues to carry out its armed actions against the People's Republic of Angola. The communique, signed by the defense minister, Colonel Pedro Maria Tonha, once again informs the international public that over the past days the troops of the South African Army attacked the townships of Cahama and Cuvelai in Cunene province, Mulondo in Huila Province, and Ciaundo in Cuando Cubango.

These actions of the racist Pretoria regime are directed against the defenseless civilian public and military units and not against the alleged SWAPO positions, as is claimed by the Pretoria rulers.

The communique stresses that early yesterday morning, mechanized ground and infantry units backed by the air force fighter-bombers and helicopters of the South African Army directly attacked the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] units in the areas mentioned. In their current military aggression the South Africans are expanding their war-like action to new areas beyond those they already control in the southern part of our country. They are attempting to mislead the international public that it is the legitimate Government of the People's Republic of Angola which is responsible for the failure to implement the decolonization process of Namibia in accordance with Resolution 435.

In conclusion the communique reveals that our Air Force continues to remain firm in its defensive positions, tenaciously countering the invading troops of the racist Pretoria regime, who have been suffering heavy human and material losses.

SWAPO Denies Presence of Bases After RSA Raid

MB310405 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] SWAPO yesterday categorically denied the existence of any bases or antiaircraft batteries belonging to it in the Angolan location of (Luivo), in Huila Province, which was bombed the day before yesterday by the Air Force of the racist Pretoria regime. In a communique issued here in Luanda, SWAPO accordingly denied the statements by Constand Viljoen, chief of the Pretoria racist Defense Force, who claimed that his Army had destroyed what he alleged to be a SWAPO military headquarters and antiaircraft batteries in (Luivo) [sentence as heard]. The reported claim by Constand Viljoen is just a maneuver by the racist Pretoria regime to attempt to divert the attention of the international public opinion from the current aggression it is carrying out against the sovereign territory of the People's Republic of Angola.

In its communique, SWAPO stresses that the bombing of (Luivo) is another move in the general South African military aggression against Angola, and reflects the frustration of the invading forces with the firm response of the Angolan troops, who are ready to repulse an attempt to violate Angola's sovereignty and territorial integrity with courage and determination. SWAPO also condemns the current South African militaristic adventure on Angolan territory and appeals to the entire international community and all peace-loving peoples and governments to condemn the new escalation of the South African aggression. It also appeals to the international community to call on the Pretoria racist regime to immediately cease its attacks and withdraw its forces from Southern Angola and Namibia.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Outlines Tasks for Armed Forces

MB010637 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] President Samora Machel said in Maputo yesterday that the main task of the Mozambique Armed Forces, FPLM, is to physically liquidate the armed bandits.

Field Marshal Samora Machel said that in order to succeed in the fight against the armed bandits, the Mozambique Armed Forces must structure, organize, and correctly define the tasks for the people. The Mozambique head of state, who was speaking at a ceremony during which he received greetings from the Mozambique Armed Forces on the occasion of the new year, said that 1984 will be a year for consolidating the bases from which to launch a vigorous development in the economic, social, and cultural fields and for promoting cooperation with the rest of the world. President Samora Machel stressed that 1984 will be the year during which we shall make full use of the natural resources in order to transform them into the people's wealth and well-being.

USSR Presents Rice To Assist Drought Victims

MB020620 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] The Soviet consul general in Beira yesterday delivered 3,000 metric ton of rice to government officials in Sofala Province yesterday as relief assistance for the victims of the drought which is affecting vast areas of our country. This rice is part of a 7,000 metric ton consignment of rice and other goods which was unloaded at the port of Maputo by the Soviet ship *Olga Ulyanova*. Two months ago Beira received its first shipment of rice from the USSR.

While expressing his thanks at the delivery ceremony, the acting director of the Sofala Province Home Trade Department stressed that the gesture is a true act of solidarity between the Mozambique and Soviet peoples.

NAMIBIA

Security Forces Report 56 SWAPO Insurgents Dead

MB021126 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1145 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Windhoek, Jan 2, SAPA — SWA/Namibian security forces have shot dead 56 SWAPO insurgents in operations presently being waged against SWAPO's military wing, and five members of the security forces died in action at the weekend. In a statement issued in Windhoek today, the officer commanding the SWA Territory Force, Major-General George Meiring, said that an additional unknown number of SWAPO insurgents were killed in air raids and artillery attacks. The number of SWAPO insurgents killed last year totalled 918.

"With the early onset of the rainy season, SWAPO is at present busy with attempts — as is the custom annually — to infiltrate SWA," General Meiring said. "The security forces are engaged in follow-up and disruption actions to stop these infiltration efforts." The security forces were continually "adjusting their positions to SWAPO's movements and to exert pressure on these terrorists."

The statement said that during 1983 SWAPO terrorist action had still been aimed mainly at civilian targets. "In the year under review, 146 civilians — mainly black inhabitants of the country — died at the hands of SWAPO. "They were killed either in landmine incidents or were murdered by SWAPO." A total of 101 civilians were seriously injured in the past year in landmine blasts or in SWAPO attacks, General Meiring added.

The latest deaths bring to 14 the number of security force members killed in the operation which began on December 6. Among the fatalities were five black SWATF soldiers. Another black SWATF soldier was reported missing, believed captured. The SWATF statement today did not specify how or where the latest fatalities occurred, but a statement by the SA Defence Force released simultaneously in Pretoria confirmed that the men had been killed in action in southern Angola.

An earlier statement by the chief of the SADF, General Constand Viljoen, said SWAPO had mustered between 800 and 1,000 insurgents for the movement's annual armed thrust into SWA/Namibia from southern Angola. The rains in SWA/Namibia, which began a month early, had precipitated a preemptive strike against SWAPO's military wing (the People's Liberation Army of Namibia), he said. The defence chief said that the security forces from SWA/Namibia were trying to avoid armed contact with Angolan government forces (FAPLA), but SWAPO had adopted the tactics of shielding behind FAPLA forces.

Meanwhile, a radio report from Luanda quoting Angolan government officials at the weekend, stated that fighting between Angolan troops and forces from SWA/Namibia continued in the southern provinces of Cunene, Huila, and Cuando Cubango. The report claimed that 10 South African aircraft had been shot down.

Turnhalle President Hails Multiparty Meeting

MB310722 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] The president of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, Mr Riruako, says the multiparty conference in progress in the territory is not intended to promote the interests of political leaders but represents a step towards independence. Interviewed by Radio South-West Africa, he said that the international community would have to take note of the initiative by the internal leaders. The inhabitants of South-West Africa had no wish for a solution through violence but was seeking one that could bring about lasting peace.

SOUTH AFRICA

Prime Minister Delivers New Year Message

MB010839 Johannesburg International Service in English 0700 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] On the eve of the new year, the prime minister of South Africa, Mr P.W. Botha, gave his customary end-of-the-year message in English and Afrikaans.

He said that we look back gratefully to what has been achieved over the past year, despite obstacles. The devastating drought in most parts of the country is over, and we humbly thank the Almighty, who brought salvation for man and beast. The prime minister said he was extremely happy that our economic policy showed good results in very difficult circumstances at home and internationally, and that the economy had adjusted well to changing circumstances. There had been a considerable improvement in the balance of payments. Exchange control on non-residents had been abolished, the inflation rate has effectively decreased, and even the business cycle is showing signs of improvement. The prime minister continued:

[Begin recording] We were able to establish the Development Bank of Southern Africa, through which we hope to serve the ideal of a more balanced economy in southern Africa. Regional development strategy, as well as the Small Business Corporation, proved to be making progress. Consequently, the South African economy will enter 1984 with improved prospects. Naturally, we shall have to cope with certain problems, but we are looking forward to a positive growth rate as well as determined effort to bring inflation further down. We can achieve these goals if we display the necessary motivation and teamwork, as well as productivity.

I must also mention here the overwhelming way in which the electorate supported the decision of Parliament to bring about a new constitutional dispensation. What happened on referendum day will go down in history as an event of the utmost importance. The white electorate expressed their determination to serve the cause of democracy, to uphold the principles of orderly government, to maintain Christian civilized values, and to apply justice to other population groups in our country. On this foundation we shall endeavor to create greater stability. We shall continue to pursue the ideal of good neighborliness and cooperation with other self-governing and independent states in southern Africa. There exists no instant solution for our problems. Those people who think they can solve problems by revolution and violence will only create misery, hunger, and desperation [end recording].

Continuing in Afrikaans, the prime minister said it was true that we often have to maintain our position in a stormy and uncertain international community. Part of this international community, as represented in the United Nations and Commonwealth Conference, gets pleasure from maliciously attacking the Republic of South Africa, but few of those countries have shown the progress that South Africa has in education, health, and standard of living. The prime Minister said Africa will not solve its problems with second-hand Soviet weapons or by neglecting government administration, or by abusing land. How much poorer must most African states become before they realize this? Particularly, the countries in southern Africa will be able to achieve a lot more through cooperation with the Republic of South Africa on matters of common interest.

No self-respecting country, such as the Republic of South Africa, can allow international political opportunists or Soviet-inspired terrorism or revolutionary elements to dictate to it how it should handle its domestic affairs. The method of peaceful coexistence can only be determined by South Africans themselves. The prime minister said we will maintain with determination the integrity of our borders and our responsibility in southern Africa. Neighboring countries that think they can harbor anti-South African terrorists are only harming themselves. Mr Botha said we have not begun to use the weapons that we have at our disposal in case of more pressure. Our security services, to whom we owe so much gratitude, are becoming more and more efficient.

That is why, the prime minister said, it is in the interests of our neighbors to choose cooperation instead. Fortunately, there are those who have accepted this. The Republic of South Africa and the vast majority of its citizens are determined to further strengthen our healthy economy, to ensure our strategic importance. Mr P.W. Botha said we will work and fight for our dearly-earned freedom. Our possessions, in the form of material and spiritual possessions that we must defend, are valuable. By using them correctly, we can serve mankind. The prime minister concluded his New Year message by saying that we pray for mercy to do what is right in the eyes of God for our country and its people. May we all receive the strength to live in 1984 in cheerfulness and servitude.

Foreign Minister Discusses Mozambique, Zimbabwe

MB020857 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] The most important objective of the South African Government for 1984 will be to maintain friendly relations with as many countries as possible. Speaking in a radio program, the South African foreign minister, Mr Roelof Botha, said that Mozambique was a very important area in South African foreign policy approach.

Mr Botha said South Africa wanted better relations with Mozambique. During his recent tour of Europe he had found that Portugal in particular had been very keen to help South Africa in its search for better relations. The United States too was very keen to see greater stability in relations between South Africa and Mozambique.

The foreign minister said these relations were in danger of deteriorating, but he believed that the position could improve if the Governments of the United States, Portugal, Mozambique, and South Africa were sincere in their attempt to bring about an improvement. A big problem was the amount of distrust that existed between South Africa and Mozambique. Some questions that remain to be answered are whether this mutual distrust could be overcome, and who the power was that now manipulated Mozambique from behind the scenes.

Referring to Zimbabwe, the South African foreign minister said South Africa and Zimbabwe now viewed relations between them more realistically. He said so far Zimbabwe had not allowed terrorists to operate from its territory against South Africa. This was a very important aspect which had had an influence on South Africa, despite other differences.

Pik Botha Cites UK, FRG Stance Against Violence

MB310715 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says Britain and West Germany both are countries which have to contend with terrorist attacks from time to time. They could thus be expected to denounce any form of violence designed to achieve political ends. Mr Botha was commenting in Pretoria on statements in which South Africa's latest military action against SWAPO in southern Angola is condemned by the British and West German Governments.

He said that during his recent visit to Europe he had personally informed the two governments of SWAPO's plans to conduct a new, large-scale offensive against the people of South-West Africa. They had been told that South Africa would not tolerate SWAPO's action, but at the time they had offered no objections to his point of view.

Mr Botha said he had noted that both the British and the West German Governments at least condemned violence from whatever quarter it might come. It was nevertheless regrettable that the two governments had no wish to specify SWAPO as the single cause of the violence occurring in South-West Africa. He was convinced that they were acquainted with the true state of affairs, but were suppressing the facts for reasons of political strategy.

Mr Botha said he wished to restate the determination of the South African Government not to allow SWAPO to compel the people of South-West Africa to accept its political ideology by employing violence and intimidation against them.

Defense Force Denies Bombing Angolan Village

MB010745 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] The South African Air Force has denied allegations by Angola that a number of civilians were killed at the village of (Luivo) recently when South African Impalas bombed SWAPO terrorist headquarters in Angola. An Air Force officer said in Pretoria that photographs taken by the navigator of one of the Impalas during the attack showed undeniably that the bombs hit only the SWAPO base, which was the target. He said the explosions from a series of bombs could be seen clearly on the photographs, which were taken from the last of the four Impalas. Photographs of the attack have been released to the news media.

The photographs show clearly that the SWAPO headquarters was under ground, and that there were no buildings above ground. The closest houses were about 1 and 1/2 km from the SWAPO base. The Air Force officer, Colonel (Julius Kriel), said the photographs refuted any allegations by Angola that the South African aircraft attacked (Luivo). He said the village was so small that it was not even shown on maps. It consisted only of a few houses. (Luivo) is about 3 km from the SWAPO headquarters that was attacked by the South African Air Force.

Col (Kriel) said that the chief of the Defense Force, General Constand Viljoen, told newsmen earlier this week that such allegations would probably be forthcoming from Angola and SWAPO. These predictions had proved to be true.

Gerhardt Sentenced to Life Imprisonment

MB310913 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0900 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] In the Supreme Court in Cape Town, the judge president of the Cape, Mr Justice Munnik, has sentenced the former commanding officer of the naval dockyard at Simonstown, Dieter Felix Gerhardt, to life imprisonment on a charge of high treason. His wife Ruth was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment on a similar charge. Gerhardt and his wife were convicted of high treason for selling South African military secrets to the Soviet Union. The defense indicated that it would apply next week for leave to appeal against the convictions and sentences.

SWAZILAND

12 People Rearrested After Release on Bail

MB311300 Mbabane THE SWAZI NEWS in English 31 Dec 83 p 20

[By Pat Jele]

[Text] Twelve people accused of high treason have now been placed under 60 days' detention — less than 24 hours after being given bail.

The group includes three members of the Royal Family, a chief and a priest.

They are Chief Dambuza Lukhele, Bonisile Bello, Princess Mncane, Africa Mhlanga, Beauty Hlophe, Prince Matatazela, Mrs Susan Dlamini, Kislon Shongwe, the Reverend Gilbert Motsa, Princess Buyisile, Samson Dlamini and Petros Phungwayo.

They have been accused of trying to overthrow the government.

They are alleged to have conspired to get the help of mercenaries from South Africa to depose the Queen Regent Ntombi and replace her with former Regent Dzeliwe.

Further, they are accused of having plotted to arrest members of the Supreme Council of State, the Prime Minister, Prince Bhekimpi, and senior members of the armed forces.

High Court Judge, Mr Justice Ben Dunn had freed them on 2,000 bail each, stating that there was no justification for keeping them in custody.

He further said that from the papers presented before him opposing bail, there was hardly a case against the accused.

Soon after they were released, Lukhele, Bello, Hlophe and Princess Mncane were rearrested. Others had by then paid their bail and had been released.

Sources at the Matsapha maximum security prison said that the authorities had been instructed to continue holding the four in custody while the Liqoqo considered whether or not to have them served with 60-day orders.

At the same time, Chief Lukhele was charged with perjury and appeared before a magistrate's court on remand.

He was charged in connection with a sworn statement he allegedly made which was used in judicial proceedings during the deposed Queen Regent Dzeliwe's case at the High Court.

Chief Dambuza had allegedly claimed that he was speaking on behalf of all chiefs and with their authorisation.

The court released him but no sooner was he outside than he was rearrested.

With the latest group, there are now 19 people serving 60 days' detention.

Others are ex-judge Mr Douglas Lukhele, Mr Arthur Khoza, Prince Thunduluka, Prince Sulumlomo, Senanile Nkosi, Thembi Lukhele and Mary Khanya.

During the bail applications for the 12 accused, the court was told that a mercenary army recruited in South Africa was on standby to stage a coup if the accused were released.

ZAMBIA

U.S., RSA Urged To Drop Cuban Linkage to Namibia

MB310903 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Zambia has expressed disappointment that Namibia is still not independent, and views with great concern and dismay the fact that 1983 saw the continued linkage of the territory's independence with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. Zambia also says the problems of southern Africa are a direct consequence of apartheid in South Africa, and the efforts of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference and the Preferential Trade Area were being frustrated by South Africa's sabotage and destabilization activities.

This is contained in an end-of-year message on the situation in southern Africa released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman in Lusaka today. The spokesman says Zambia has stated that the claimed linkage is absurd, irrelevant, and diversionary, and that it contradicts the [word indistinct] spirit of Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978. He urges the international community and friends of America and racist South Africa to persuade the two governments to drop their insistence (?on linkage) so that Namibia can gain independence without further delay.

Kaunda Calls for Increased Party Membership

MB011230 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kaunda, today marked his first 1984 public address with an earnest call for increased party membership and a curb on overpricing. Speaking after renewal of his party membership at State House's (Kankongote) branch today, the president said some resolutions of the 19th United National Independence Party general conference held in August last year could be implemented if party membership was strengthened at all levels during 1984.

He said Zambians could make their fullest contributions to the country only through making up party membership. The president said the party is power, and the party runs the country. The acceptance of the philosophy of humanism is the only precondition for acceptance into the party. He urged those wishing to join or renew their party membership to do so before the end of January.

ZIMBABWE

Prime Minister Delivers New Year Address

MB010722 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has paid tribute to the people of Zimbabwe for supporting the government and ZANU-PF in its efforts to build a united, non-racial, and truly democratic society. In his New Year address to the nation on radio and television last night, Comrade Mugabe reviewed the major economic and political events which took place in 1983 and gave guidelines for the coming year.

He said the ruling party should maintain a firm relationship with the government and ensure that the government is implementing party policy. He called on the nation to transform losses caused by the drought into gains this season. The prime minister said despite the drought and world recession, Zimbabwe has managed admirably. He noted that in industry some manufacturing sectors had experienced negative growth because of the shortage of foreign currency. He pointed out that the closure of several enterprises and the retrenchement of hundreds of workers call for a thorough review of the manufacturing sector.

Comrade Mugabe said in the public sector programs of a priority nature, such as education, health, and road development, were especially sustained, while others, such as land resettlement, had to be slowed down or restricted in scope. He said several areas of governmental activity made much progress, although budgetary constraints reduced the scope of the public investment program.

Noting that the effectiveness of the country's development programs depends on the degree of peace and calm, Comrade Mugabe said the overall situation in Matabeleland is growing

better, despite South African backing of super-ZAPU dissidents. He said the dissidents with a mission to fight for Mr Nkomo and overthrow the popularly elected government had instructions to kill, maim, and harrass white farmers, ZANU-PF supporters, and all those generally opposed to them. The dissidents, who are operating from Dukwe Camp in Botswana, have developed a link with South Africa. Comrade Mugabe said the Pretoria regime has decided to take up the ZAPU cause in the same way as it has taken up the cause of UNITA in Angola, the National Resistance Movement in Mozambique, and the Basotho Congress Party in Lesotho. He said while dissidents were able sneak in from Botswana to commit their criminal acts, the government is [words indistinct] good understanding and cooperation between the two countries. He said [words indistinct] intensified operations toward the eradication of dissidents.

Cuban Envoy Comments on 'Linkage' Issue

MB301845 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] The Cuban charge d'affaires to Zimbabwe, Comrade Ramon Alonso, says his country is prepared to fight any forms of aggression and imperialism from the United States. Comrade Alonso told a news conference in Harare today that Cuba is not afraid of the U.S. menace and will do everything in its power to defend its revolution.

Noting that there has been an economic blockade against his country for the past 20 years, Comrade Alonso expressed the hope that the door for free and fair talks is still open, provided there are no preconditions.

On the linkage between the Cuban presence in Angola and Namibian independence, he said the question of a Cuban withdrawal from Angola is for the Angolan and Cuban Governments only. Comrade Alonso said while imperialist countries are concerned with the linkage issue they should also ask themselves when racist South African troops will pull out of Angola and Namibia.